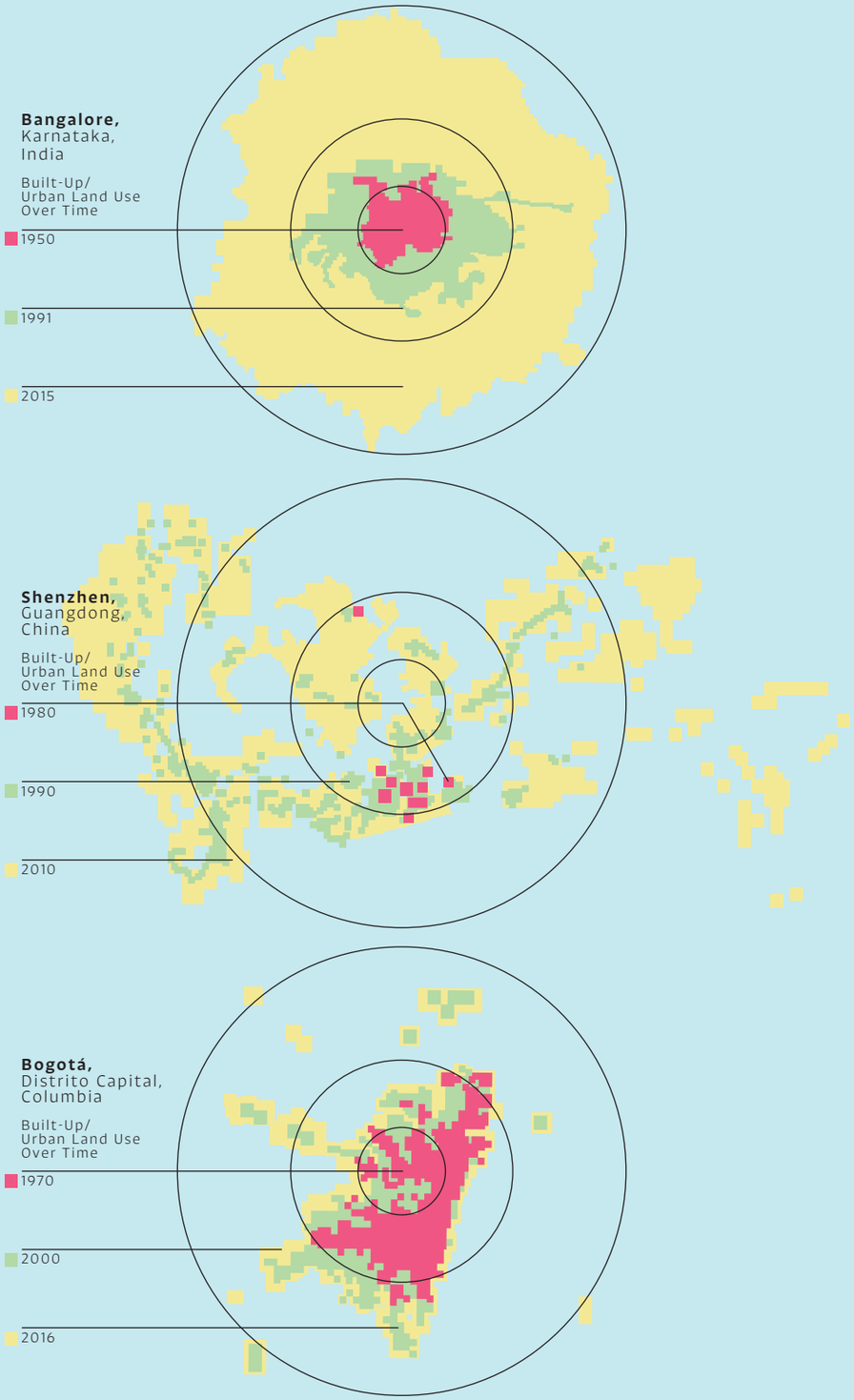
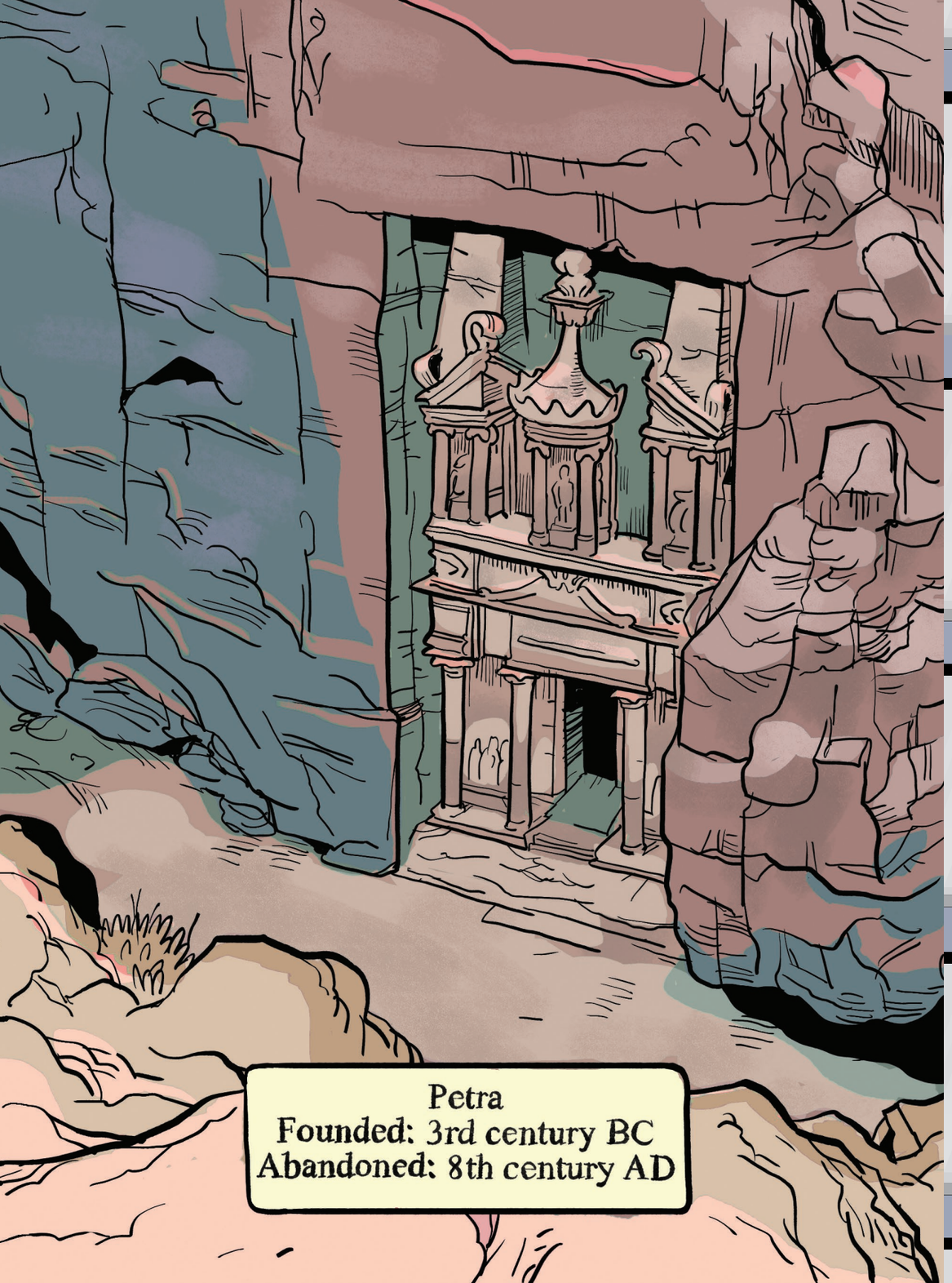
CITIES
THE NIB


Bangalore,
Karnataka,
India
Built-Up/
Urban Land Use
Over Time
1950
1991
2015
Shenzhen,
Guangdong,
China
Built-Up/
Urban Land Use
Over Time
1980
1990
2010
Bogotá,
Distrito Capital,
Columbia
Built-Up/
Urban Land Use
Over Time
1970
2000
2016

THE NIB
CITIES
Illustration by Mark Kaufman



As I'm writing this, the world watches as Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, defies overthrow by Russia. Putin and Russian officials predicted that the city would fall within three days, but here we are, three weeks in, and Kyiv still stands, its future still in great peril. I assume by the time this issue is published, things will have already changed considerably. Meanwhile, several Chinese cities have gone into lockdown over the latest Omicron subvariant, while many cities in the U.S. and Europe drop COVID-19 regulations and "open up." I'm getting a stress headache just typing this.

Cities—geographical areas defined by high population density and/or historic, governmental, economic, institutional, infrastructural, and cultural influences—have been around for a long time.

Like a *long* time, folks. Nowadays, most of the world's populations are concentrated in cities. Some demographers even consider megalopolises (also known as megaregions or supercities) to be of more economic and social importance than state and national influence. I've lived in various cities during my adulthood, including Providence, Rhode Island; Perth, Australia (study abroad counts, right?); Los Angeles; Boston; and New York City. Each one had distinctive architecture, history, industry, demographics, food, nightlife, form of dysfunctional public transportation, and yes, vibe. They had unique problems as well as perks (and no, I will not tell you my favorite city, but it doesn't rhyme with *Austin*). Now, I live in the 'burbs near where I grew up, less than 30 miles away from the city that sends us their garbage. But I digress.

Issue 12 of *The Nib* features all things city: Cathy Leamy and Randall Trang on how the ancient city of Byzantium was saved by overzealous sports fans; Cecilia Ramos and Juan Rincón on the national strike in Cali, Columbia; Triple Dream Comics on the history of San Francisco's famous International Hotel; an interview with Wangui Kimari on the growing urbanization of the African continent; Victoria Lomasko on fleeing Russia during the current war; and many, many more. Worldwide, urban life faces many challenges at the moment—the ongoing pandemic, the housing crisis, war, inadequate infrastructure, and dubious leadership.

But cities are dynamic and will continue to evolve largely due to the everyday people who shape them.

Whit Taylor

Whit Taylor
Contributing Editor

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Covers, masthead, contributors page, and section illustrations by Daniel Irizarri.

Interstitial illustrations by Kazimir Lee.

Endpapers, page one, and table of contents design and illustrations by Mark Kaufman.

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DISPATCHES

ECOLOGIES OF HOUSTON

By Ted Closson

In the summer of 2009, newly married, I moved to Houston, Texas, a city famously without zoning.

I was told Houston was a place of fenced vacant lots, gated apartment complexes, and a sprawling infrastructure that constantly rearranged itself. Home, at the time, to nearly 2 million people.

It was a place that grew only with the advent of air-conditioning in the 1950s. It expanded into surrounding wetlands, backfilling into bayous, which in turn flooded and overtook the city each hurricane season.

But overtaking the landscape did not impede the land's capacity to support living things.

Life pressed into the gaps, sometimes overtaking the infrastructure.

Like the hundreds of grackles that would perch each morning at intersections, a chorus louder than traffic, louder than the city, greeting me as I pulled to a stop.

Or the mysterious stranger who appeared in the middle of the street one night, instead of along a riverbank hunting for frogs, as I departed a gallery opening.

Perhaps the most intense experience I had in Houston was with the single magnolia in the courtyard of our apartment complex. Each dawn, the hundreds of birds sheltered in its branches would wake and sing out.

You could touch the boughs of the tree from nearby elevated walkways and stairwells, the tree chafing at the edges of its coifed arbor.

For most of the day, its limbs were empty....

...But at night the birds returned to it—perhaps the only viable roost in the area.

Nesting on rooftops was impossible, as rats would kill the sleeping birds.

One night I approached the tree and shone a flashlight into the branches.

On every bough a bird—different species even—rested beside one another, pressed closely in the dark shelter of the tree.

The City Saved by Sports Fans

by Randall Trang & Cathy Leamy

Early 400s CE: While the western half of the Roman Empire began to decline, the eastern half thrived, especially its capital city of **Constantinople** (today known as Istanbul, in Turkey).

The city already had one protective wall. Anxious about **looming threats,** the Eastern Roman Empire improved the defenses by building a set of **three more.**

But in 447 CE, an **earthquake** struck and damaged the walls, just as a new danger approached: **Attila the Hun!**

Emperor Theodosius II put one of his prefects, **Flavius Constantinus,** in charge of repairs. This was a tall order, since building the three walls had taken **nine years.**

Constantinus realized an incredible asset: the city's intensely competitive **sports fandom,** centered around its chariot teams.

Constantinus assigned each racing team a section of the broken walls. They, along with as many fans as they could gather, would be in charge of **fixing it.**

The teams and their fans were determined to do a better job than their rivals! They recruited (and strongarmed) over **16,000** people into rebuilding the walls.

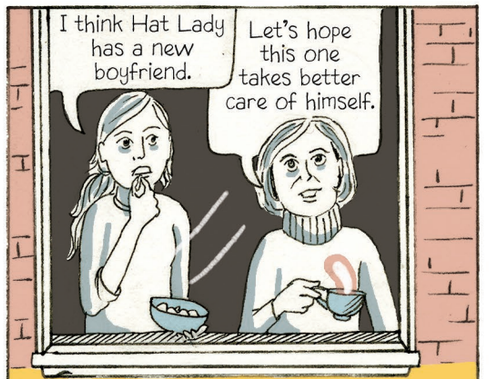
The walls were repaired (and in many areas, improved) in just **two months.** The famed Theodosian Walls kept Constantinople safe for almost **1,000 years** after!

Growing up in NYC, I found out a lot about my neighbors without ever meeting them.

andi Zeisler

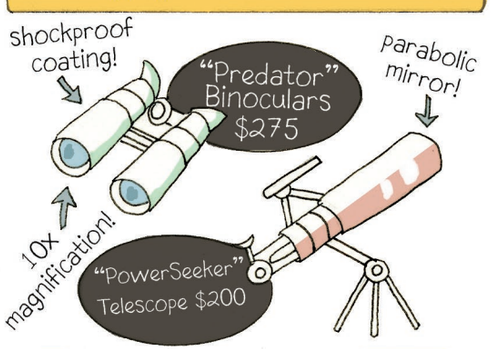
PEEP CITY

When I was 17, I started working at a store that sold "space age" gadgets and soon noticed its curiously brisk sale in telescopes.



Any city filled with people is a site of ambient, inevitable voyeurism.

The nosy neighbor is a staple of moody, mysterious stories and art.

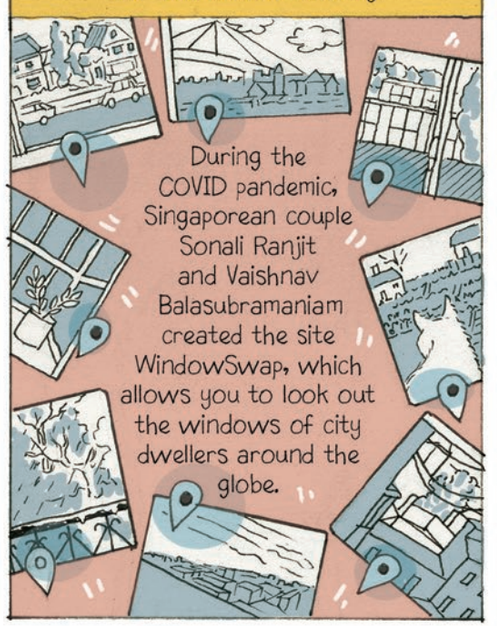


But in a time when surveillance is the default state of most citizens, purposefully peering at strangers can feel more like an invasion of privacy than a normal feature of city living.

More often than not, though, a glimpse into a stranger's window reveals a lot of oddly reassuring dishwashing, eating, and TV-watching, among other mundane activities.

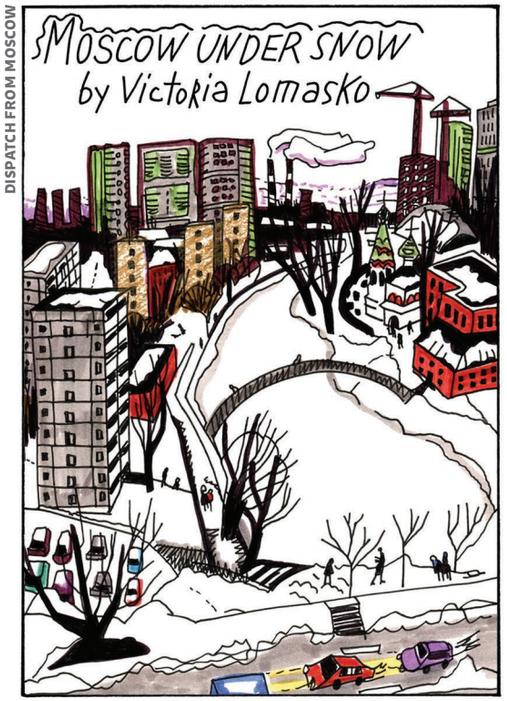
In places that can be isolating, observing the lives of others from a safe distance – what urbanist Jane Jacobs called "the ballet of the good city sidewalk" – can offer a sense of routine and comfort.

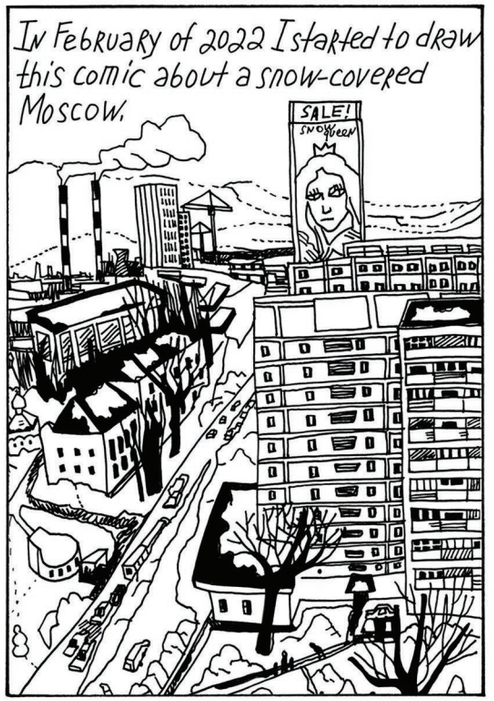
There is even an international market for this kind of banality.



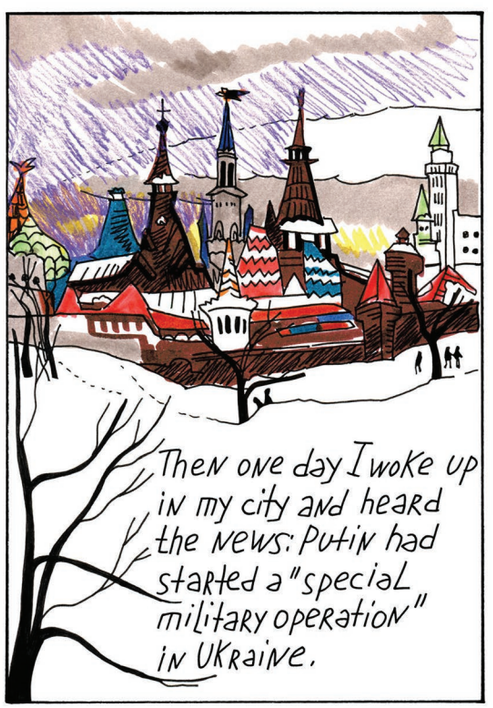
Some architects have also sought to reflect the urban dynamic of voyeurism and exhibtionism; one referred to his vision as "creating stages for people to perform on."

For the rest of us, there's always curtains.


MOSCOW UNDER SNOW
by Victoria Lomasko


In February of 2022 I started to draw this comic about a snow-covered Moscow.
SALE!
SNOWQUEEN

On Izmaylovsky Island, near my house, children were rolling down its hills on whatever they could find and laughing.


Then one day I woke up in my city and heard the news: Putin had started a "special military operation" in Ukraine.

My neighbor and I think the same way, but if we publicly call this war a war, we could get 15 years in prison.
It's Not my war. This is Putin's war.

After five hours of waiting in line at my bank, I found out I can only withdraw the savings in Rubles, not Euros.
Because of the sanctions, the Rubles had turned into garbage.

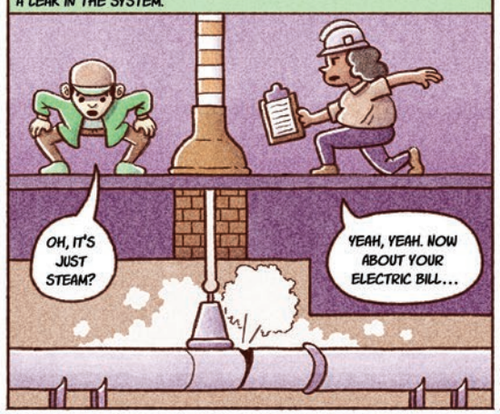
It is 3am. My last meeting with my friends. We all heard the news that Russia is bombing Kharkiv and can't sleep.

According to the new laws, I am a foreign agent who worked for enemy states. This is my last sketch at my home. The unknown lies ahead.
MOIST

WHAT ARE MANHATTAN'S STREET CHIMNEYS?

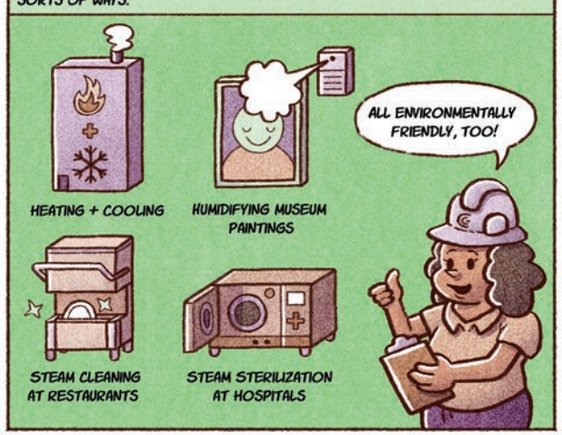
BY TAKU WARD

THESE PLASTIC STACKS, OWNED BY CON EDISON, VENT SMOKE VAPOR FROM NEW YORK CITY'S STEAM SYSTEM. THE STEAM IS USUALLY FROM A LEAK IN THE SYSTEM.

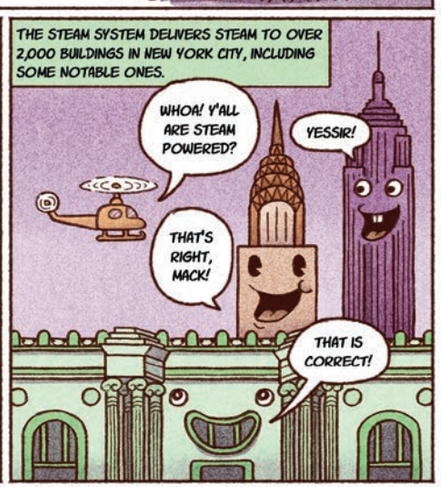


THE STACKS ARE PLACED ON THE ROAD WHEN MAINTENANCE WORKERS MAKE REPAIRS TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM BURNS AND ENSURE THAT STEAM DOESN'T DISRUPT TRAFFIC.

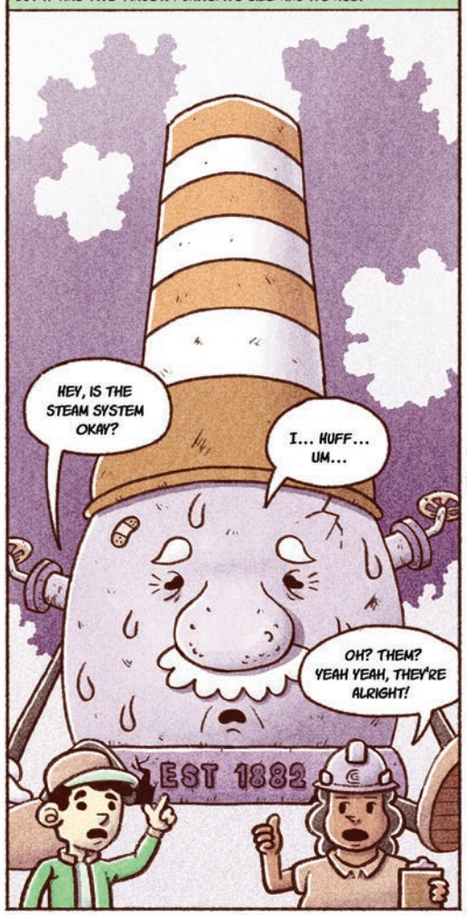
THE STEAM SYSTEM THAT THE STACKS ARE CONNECTED TO IS UTILIZED IN ALL SORTS OF WAYS.



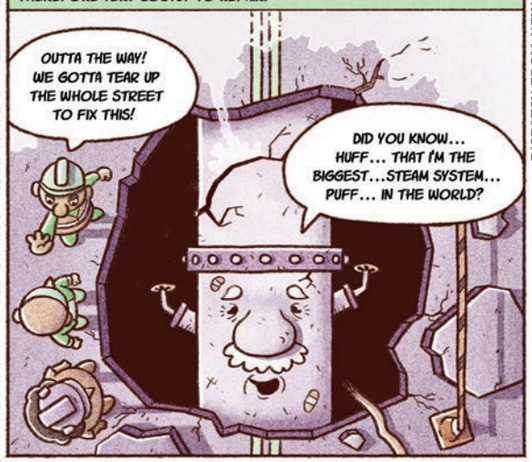
THE STEAM SYSTEM DELIVERS STEAM TO OVER 2,000 BUILDINGS IN NEW YORK CITY, INCLUDING SOME NOTABLE ONES.



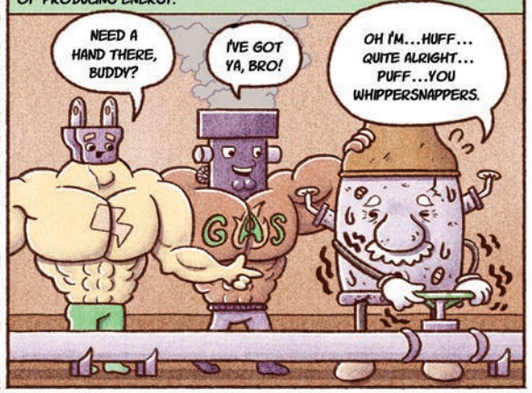
BUT IT HAS TWO MAJOR FLAWS: ITS SIZE AND ITS AGE.



WITH 105 MILES OF PIPES, THE STEAM SYSTEM IS VERY BIG AND THEREFORE VERY COSTLY TO REPAIR.



WHILE STILL USEFUL, STEAM AS POWER IS AN OLD, INEFFICIENT METHOD OF PRODUCING ENERGY.



THERE ARE ALSO MANY PARTS OF THE SYSTEM THAT MUST BE REPAIRED AND REPLACED. THE PIPE NEAR GRAND CENTRAL THAT CAUSED THE 2007 STEAM PIPE EXPLOSION WAS INSTALLED IN 1924 AND WAS INSULATED WITH ASBESTOS.

LOVE IT OR HATE IT, THE STEAM SYSTEM AND ITS STACKS ARE NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

OUTSIDERS.

OTHMAN SELMI

STARTING IN THE 1930S, RURAL TUNISIANS BEGAN TO FLEE THE COUNTRYSIDE, DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES BY YEARS OF DROUGHT AND FRENCH COLONIAL LAND CONFISCATIONS.

THE BULK OF THE DISPLACED PEOPLE, ILLITERATE AND DISORGANIZED, ENDED UP IN SLUMS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TUNIS, A STRONGHOLD OF THE FUNCTIONARIES OF THE FRENCH COLONIAL REGIME.

THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING DECADES, RIGHT UP TO THE 1970S, THE SLUMS ON THE MARGINS OF TUNIS EXPANDED AND EXPANDED.

CHILDREN BORN INTO THESE MUDDY, JUMBLED PLACES GREW UP WITHOUT ELECTRICITY OR WATER.

THE NEARBY CITY OF TUNIS, WITH ITS PAVED STREETS AND URBAN PLANNING, WAS ONE OF THE FEW SPACES THESE YOUTHS COULD STRETCH OUT AND RELAX, MAYBE EVEN MEET A GIRL AT A BAR.

CAFE·BAR DEPA

JUST AS THEIR PARENTS WERE NOT WELCOMED WHEN THEY ARRIVED FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE, TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE POOR SUBURBS ARE VIEWED WITH SUSPICION BY THE WEALTHIER CITY-DWELLERS.

POLIC

POLICE PATROL TRAIN, BUS, AND METRO STATIONS EVERY HOUR OF THE DAY, MAKING SURE THE VISITORS DON'T FEEL WELCOME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NOTHING

BIP!!

HAND OVER YOUR ID CARD

TO AVOID BEING TARGETED BY POLICE FOR DARING TO LEAVE THEIR SLUMS, KIDS TRAVEL IN GROUPS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

AT TIMES, THE CITY ITSELF SEEMS TO BE DESIGNED TO CONTROL AND SURVEIL THE MOVEMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

NARROW ROADS FEED INTO BIG BOULEVARDS. A SCANT FEW PARKS AND SPORTS FIELDS INTERRUPT THE MONOTONOUS GRAY OF THE BUILDINGS.

AFTER THE 2011 REVOLUTION, IT SEEMED LIKE THINGS COULD CHANGE.

YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED TO ENLIVEN THE CITY WITH IMPROVISED CONCERTS HELD IN THE STREETS.

NOT SO FAST.

THEY WERE MET WITH THREATS OF PRISON FOR DISTURBING THE PUBLIC ORDER.

THESE DAYS, KIDS FROM THE SLUMS GATHER IN THE EVENINGS, STAYING OUT OF SIGHT UNDER A BANK BUILDING NEAR THE TUNIS CITY THEATER. THEY BREAK-DANCE ON THE STEPS AND PRACTICE SKATE-BOARDING.

BIAT

WHERE DOES THE ENERGY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE GO?

THE CITY ONLY OFFERS THE SPORTS STADIUM. THERE, THE ONE PLACE THEY OUTNUMBER THE POLICE, THEY HOWL THEIR FRUSTRATION AND DEFIANCE.

ACAB

RENT REVOLUTION

KERENSA WOOD & ALLY SHWED

BERLIN, A CITY STATE OF 3.6 MILLION PEOPLE.

OWNED BY DEUTSCHE WOHNEN

OWNED BY VONOVIA

OWNED BY ADLER GROUP

IN SEPTEMBER 2021, ITS CITIZENS PASSED A REFERENDUM THAT ESSENTIALLY LIMITS THE MARKET POWER OF "MEGA LANDLORDS."

IF PUT INTO EFFECT, *DEUTSCHE WOHNEN & CO. ENTEIGNEN*—OR "EXPROPRIATE DEUTSCHE WOHNEN"—WOULD COMPEL PROPERTY OWNERS WITH MORE THAN 3,000 RESIDENTIAL UNITS TO SELL THEM TO THE GOVERNMENT. NEARLY A DOZEN COMPANIES WOULD QUALIFY.

BERLIN'S CURRENT HOUSING CRISIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING. AFTER REUNIFICATION, BERLIN FACED ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AND STARTED SELLING PUBLIC LAND AT A DISCOUNT.

ACHTUNG

10

PUBLIC HOUSING WAS EITHER SOLD TO FOR-PROFIT COMPANIES OR, IN SOME CASES, DEMOLISHED.

BERLIN LOST MORE THAN 200,000 UNITS OF PUBLIC HOUSING BETWEEN 1990 AND 2012.

SO IN 2016, WHEN THE MARKET PICKED UP, LARGE GERMAN REAL ESTATE COMPANIES, ALONG WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS, SNATCHED UP THE HOUSING. AGING BUILDINGS WERE RENOVATED AND LISTED AT MARKET PRICES.

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, RENTS WENT UP MORE THAN 40%.

TODAY, OVER 85% OF BERLINERS RENT.

AS SUCH, MOST OF THE CITY'S POPULATION IS VULNERABLE TO MOVEMENT IN THE GLOBAL REAL ESTATE MARKET.

68% NEW YORK

60% PARIS

50% LONDON

85% BERLIN

DEUTSCHE WOHNEN & CO. AMASSED A PORTFOLIO OF OVER 115,000 UNITS, INCLUDING SOME OF THE LARGEST FORMER PUBLIC HOUSING COMPLEXES.

DEUTSCHE WOHNEN

IN 2018, THEY LOOKED TO PURCHASE OVER 700 UNITS OF THE KARL-MARX-ALLEE HOUSES, ONCE KNOWN AS THE "WORKERS' PALACES," WHICH LED TO PROTESTS.

TENANTS ORGANIZED AND WORKED WITH THE LOCAL DISTRICT MAYOR TO PERSUADE THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE AND RESOCIALIZE 670 UNITS. BY 2020, THE STATE COMPLETED THE TRANSACTION, AND TENANTS COULD STAY IN THEIR HOMES.

WE LIVE ON KARL MARX ALLEE

NOT COMMERZ ALLEE

PROTEST

FAIRE MIETEN FÜR ALLEE

ADVOCATES PUSHED FOR THE STATE TO DO MORE TO ENSURE AFFORDABILITY, HENCE THE REFERENDUM. IT LAUNCHED IN 2019 WITH THE GOAL OF TAKING 240,000 UNITS (12% OF BERLIN'S HOUSING STOCK) OFF THE PRIVATE MARKET.

DEUTSCHE WOHNEN & CO. ENTEIGNEN

BERLINERS VOTED 59% IN FAVOR AND 34% IN OPPOSITION.

HOWEVER, THIS VOTE IS NON-BINDING.

WAH

BERLIN'S NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS INSTEAD CALLED FOR NEW HOUSING TO ADDRESS THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS, AND A TASK FORCE HAS BEEN SET UP AND SHOULD DETERMINE THE REFERENDUM'S FATE NEXT YEAR.

OTHER CITIES, FAR TOO MANY WITH DRAMATICALLY INCREASING RENTS, ARE WATCHING.

LICHT

KYIV IS FINE

UKRAINIAN ILLUSTRATOR ZHENYA OLIINYK DESCRIBES WHAT HER NATIVE CITY LOOKS LIKE AFTER RUSSIA LAUNCHED A FULL-SCALE ATTACK ON UKRAINE.

OH, WE'RE FI—

BOOM!

LIVING IN KYIV HAS BEEN FEELING LIKE THIS LATELY.

THERE ARE MUCH DARKER PLACES IN UKRAINE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE RUSSIANS WITHDREW FROM THE KYIV REGION.

MARIUPOL, WE STAND WITH YOU
– KHARKIV

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE EAST OF UKRAINE IN 2016, I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE CHECKPOINTS. NOW I HAVE ONE ON MY STREET.

IT ALL LOOKS LIKE GRIM SCENERY.

MINES

MONUMENTS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO BE KIDNAPPED.

ARMED MEN COMPLIMENT ME NOW.

HEY, YOU'RE PROVOKING US TO CHECK YOUR ID! YOU'RE LOOKING WAY TOO GOOD FOR SUCH A CRAPPY DAY!

BUT KYIV COMES TO LIFE, STILL.

WE ONLY SERVE PIZZA, AND IT COMES WITHOUT GREENERY.

OH, COME ON, I'VE JUST SEEN RUCOLA IN THE SUPERMARKET.

AND, JUST LIKE EVERY YEAR, KYIV LANDSCAPE DESIGN SERVICE, FAMOUSLY BAD AT LANDSCAPE DESIGN, BRAVELY ~~KILLS~~ CUTS TREES. IT'S SPRING AFTER ALL.

MUFFLED GUNSHOTS

Great Zimbabwe
Founded: 9th century AD
Abandoned: 15th century AD

THE RESPONSE

Each issue we ask four cartoonists a question.
For this Response, we wanted to hear from cartoonists in Melbourne, Australia, about what life was like in one of the world's most locked-down cities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LOCKED DOWN UNDER

Illustration by Eloise Grills

Beau Parsons

I live across the street from Melbourne's Park Hotel, one of the two privately owned, government-contracted "quarantine hotels" responsible for the city's second coronavirus outbreak in May 2020...

...which kicked off our record-holding city lockdown.

The hotel is also a prison for over 30 refugees, previously held offshore and in similar "alternate places of detention" for eight years due to Australia's needlessly punitive border policies.

That's over ten times longer than our "eternal lockdown."

In 2022, the hotel also famously held the world's number one tennis player, Novak Djokovic, before he was deported from Australia. This attracted...

Needless to say, we didn't really leave the house that week.

The press left with Djokovic, but the refugees are still being detained. Dedicated human rights activists are outside every day, but the "freedom" crowd never bothered coming back, despite actual imprisonment still happening to those men inside.

What's next for the Park Hotel, I wonder? One can only hope the answer is "demolition."

Eleri Harris

During the 2021 Melbourne lockdown, we walked around our neighborhood for all of the one hour we were granted outside for exercise.

My toddler loved it.

Over more than 100 days of walking, his map of the 5km (3mi.) radius around our house grew rich and dense with important landmarks.

Seeing the city through his eyes really lifted the mood, but sometimes I wondered if he knew more than he let on.

Sam Wallman

Eloise Grills

The Nib Bureau of Statistics

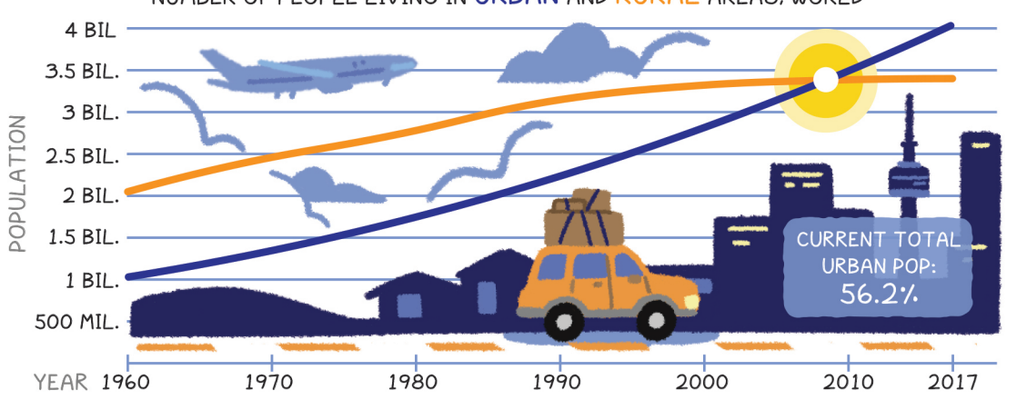
Pigeons, subways, and megacities.

Illustrated by Xulin

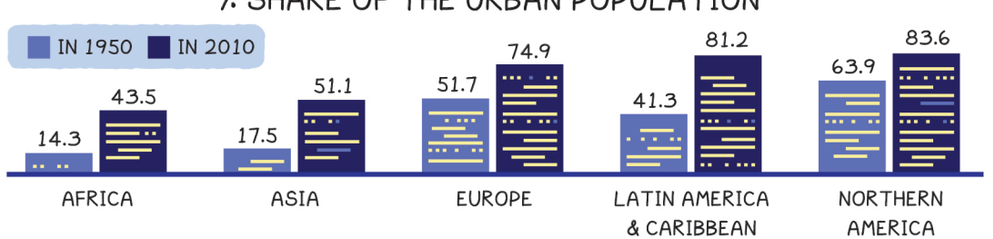
CITY LIVING

IN 2007, A SINGULAR, AND MOSTLY UNNOTICED EVENT OCCURRED. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HUMANS EXISTED, MORE OF THEM LIVED IN URBAN RATHER THAN RURAL AREAS.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, WORLD



% SHARE OF THE URBAN POPULATION



THIS HAS BEEN DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY THE RAPID URBANIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA, ASIA, AND AFRICA OVER THE PAST 70 YEARS.

SOURCE: UN POPULATION DIVISION

RATS WITH WINGS

THE PIGEONS THAT LIVE IN OUR CITIES TODAY ARE THE FERAL DESCENDENTS OF ROCK DOVES DOMESTICATED OVER 5,000 YEARS AGO. THESE BIRDS TRAVELLED WITH HUMANS ALL OVER THE WORLD AS A SOURCE OF FOOD AND A MESSAGING TECHNOLOGY.

THEY ARE NOW FOUND IN ALMOST EVERY URBAN CENTER, ON EVERY CONTINENT EXCEPT ANTARCTICA. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCURATELY MEASURE HOW MANY PIGEONS THERE ARE, BUT ESTIMATES PUT THEIR POPULATION SOMEWHERE BETWEEN **260 AND 400 MILLION.** THAT MANY PIGEONS LEAVE A MARK!

EACH YEAR IN THE U.S. ALONE, PIGEONS CAUSE APPROXIMATELY **1.1 BILLION DOLLARS** IN PROPERTY DAMAGE, MOSTLY RELATED TO COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CLEANING UP THEIR POOP AND NESTS.

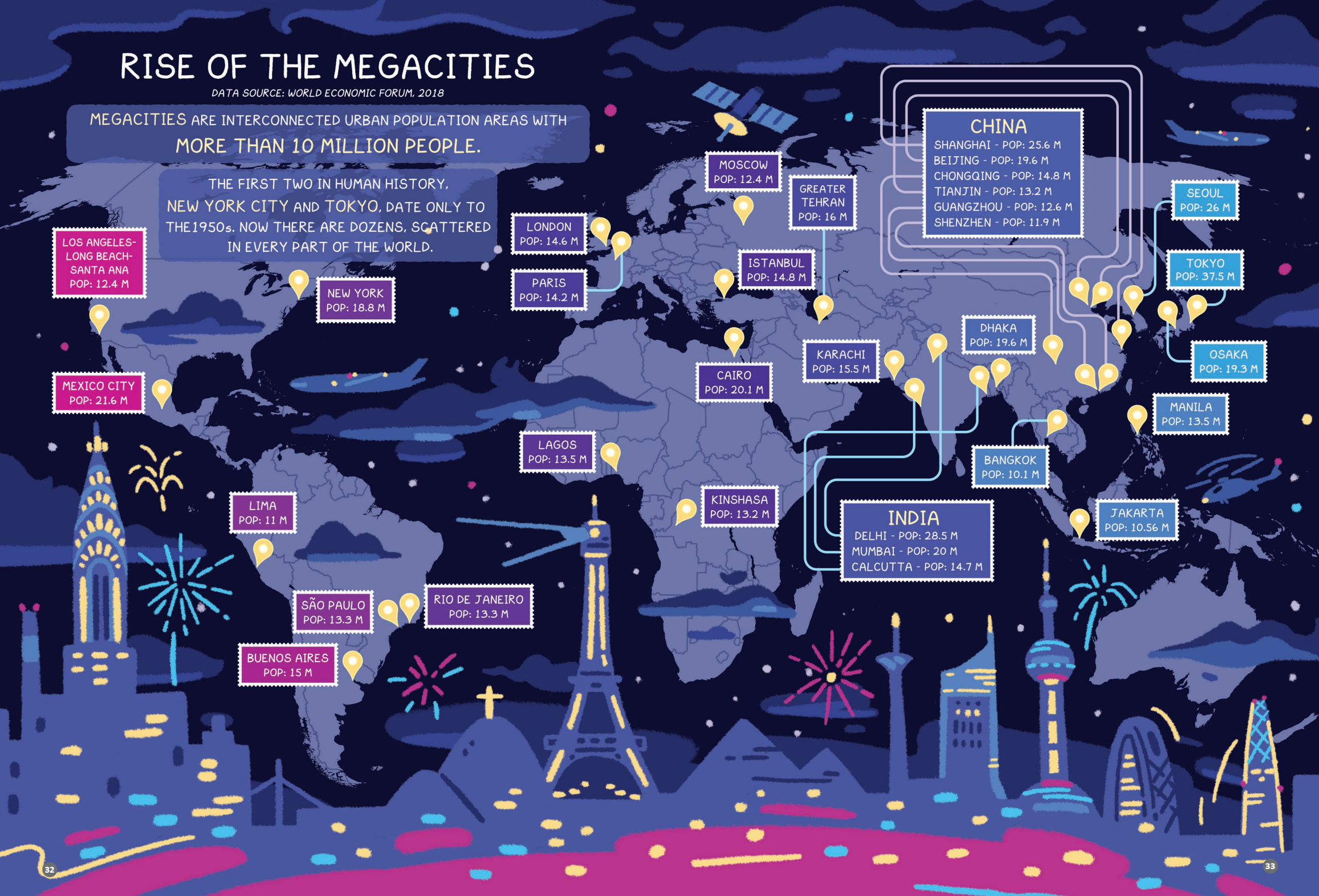
SOURCES: STUKENHOLTZ, ET AL (2018), INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

RISE OF THE MEGACITIES

DATA SOURCE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, 2018

MEGACITIES ARE INTERCONNECTED URBAN POPULATION AREAS WITH MORE THAN 10 MILLION PEOPLE.

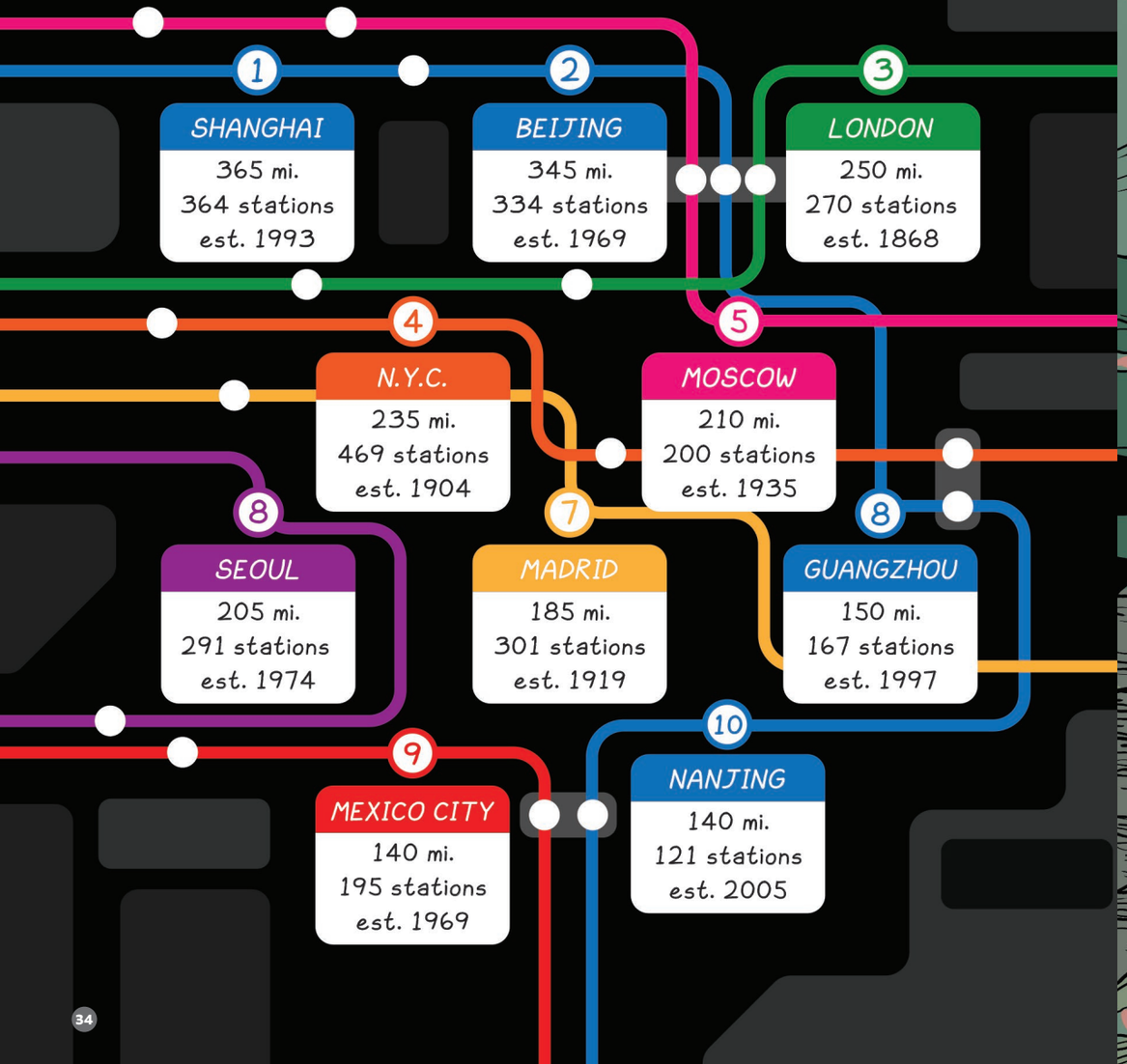
THE FIRST TWO IN HUMAN HISTORY, NEW YORK CITY AND TOKYO, DATE ONLY TO THE1950s. NOW THERE ARE DOZENS, SCATTERED IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD.

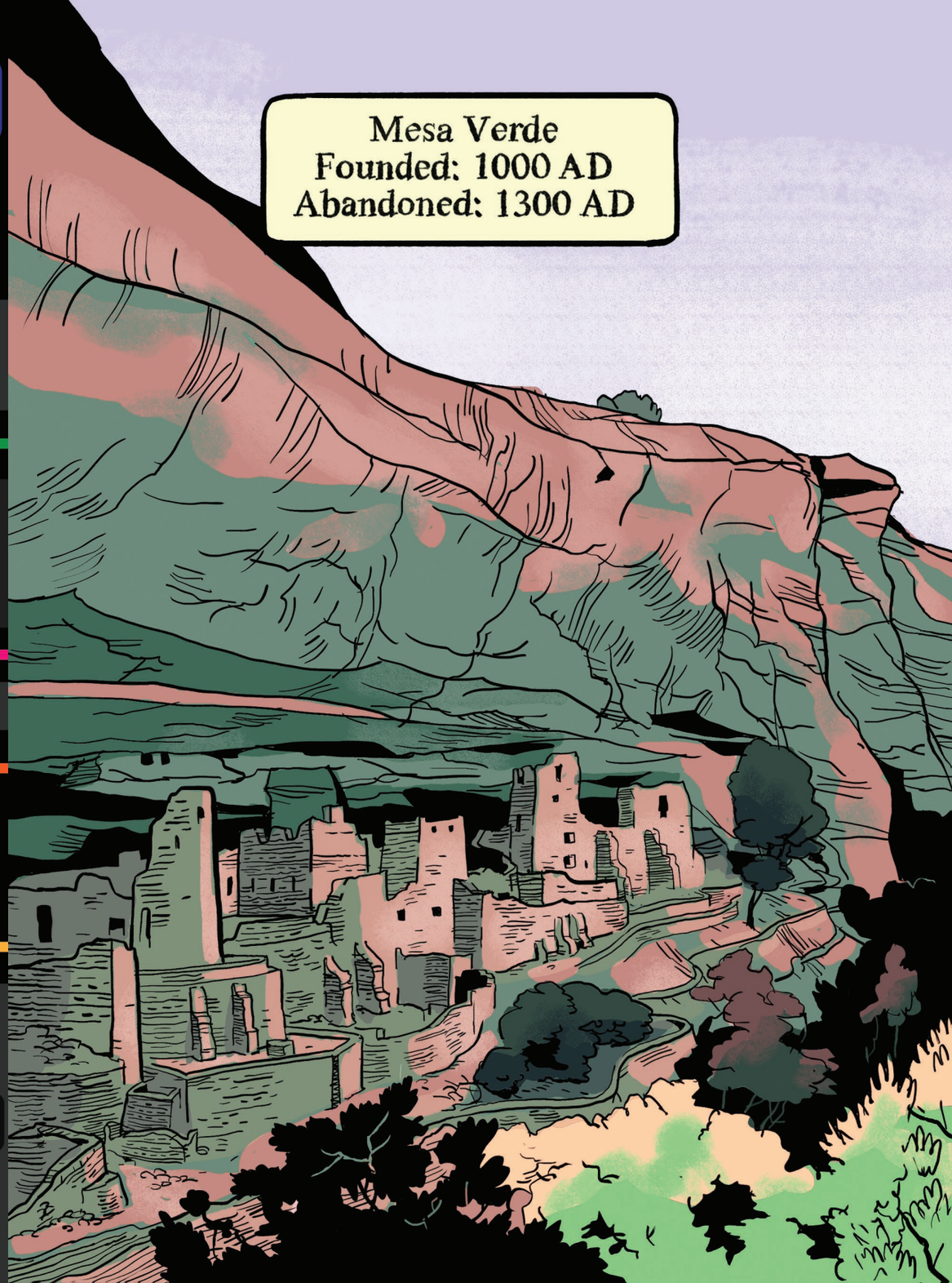


UNDERGROUND

SOURCE: WORLD ATLAS

AS CITIES GROW ABOVE GROUND, MANY ALSO GROW UNDERGROUND. LONDON MAY HAVE THE OLDEST SUBWAY, AND NEW YORK MAY HAVE THE MOST STATIONS, BUT CHINA HAS THE LONGEST, AND MANY OF THE NEWEST, SUBWAYS IN THE WORLD.



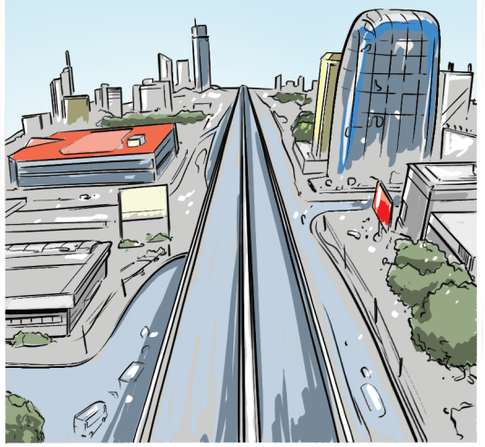


The Nib Interview

Dr. Wangui Kimari, an anthropologist on the editorial board of *Africa Is a Country*, reflects on Africa's cities—the population of which will double in the next 30 years. Interview by Andy Warner, illustrated by Maurice Odede. It was edited and condensed for clarity.

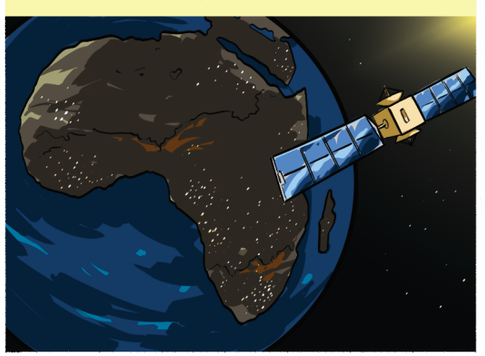
Nairobi is a colonial city – it still is shaped around the railway headquarters that was its first building. The road system still operates with similar colonial zoning logics that highlight class and, even still, racial privilege.

The built environment speaks to this legacy, and even our formal inspirations for infrastructure speak to this (for example now, basically, our city wants to be Dubai).



But Africans reshape this in many ways. There are lots of decolonial movements reclaiming space, charging against evictions, naming our monsters, and imagining and building new Africa-centered infrastructures that, while located in this still-colonial city, imagine futures beyond it.

Africa [is] the fastest urbanizing continent and has the fastest urban growth in the world. Our current city populations will double by 2050. This statistic is [often] offered to symbolize looming doom, but we should recognize that people will forge existences wherever they go.

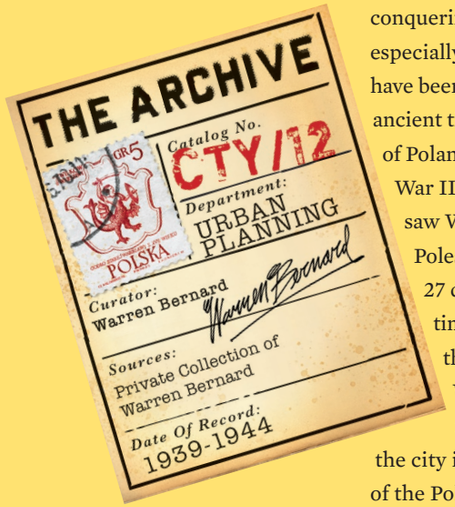


To colonialists, Africans in cities were "detribalized natives," in all of the derogatory senses that that implies.

These legacies still shape our lives, but at the same time, belonging is established in the city, and there is never a hard and fast separation between rural life and urban life.

African cities have many scenes emerging. Lagos and Nollywood. Ghana and Azonto, Nairobi's matatus, Cape Town's surfers. Kinshasa's sapeurs. Dakar's hip-hop.

Cultural phenomena emerge from particular local, sociocultural, and economic dynamics and how these dynamics want to encounter the world. And they will say to the world, "We are here."



Under Seige

Cities are much more than a place to live, a place to visit, or a source of identity. Cities also play crucial roles in the inextricably linked worlds of warfare and propaganda.

Wartime strategic goals of conquering and destroying cities, especially an opponent's capital, have been part of warfare since ancient times. The Nazi invasion of Poland that began World War II in September 1939 saw Warsaw fall and the Poles surrender in a mere 27 days of battle, by which time over 10 percent of the city was in ruins. When the Germans finally retreated from the city in 1945, 85 percent of the Polish capital had been destroyed.

The German capital of Berlin was a primary target of the British, American, French, and Russian air forces and was bombed numerous times during the war. After the Russians won the street-to-street fighting of the Battle for Berlin in April 1945, 80 percent of the city center was in ruins.

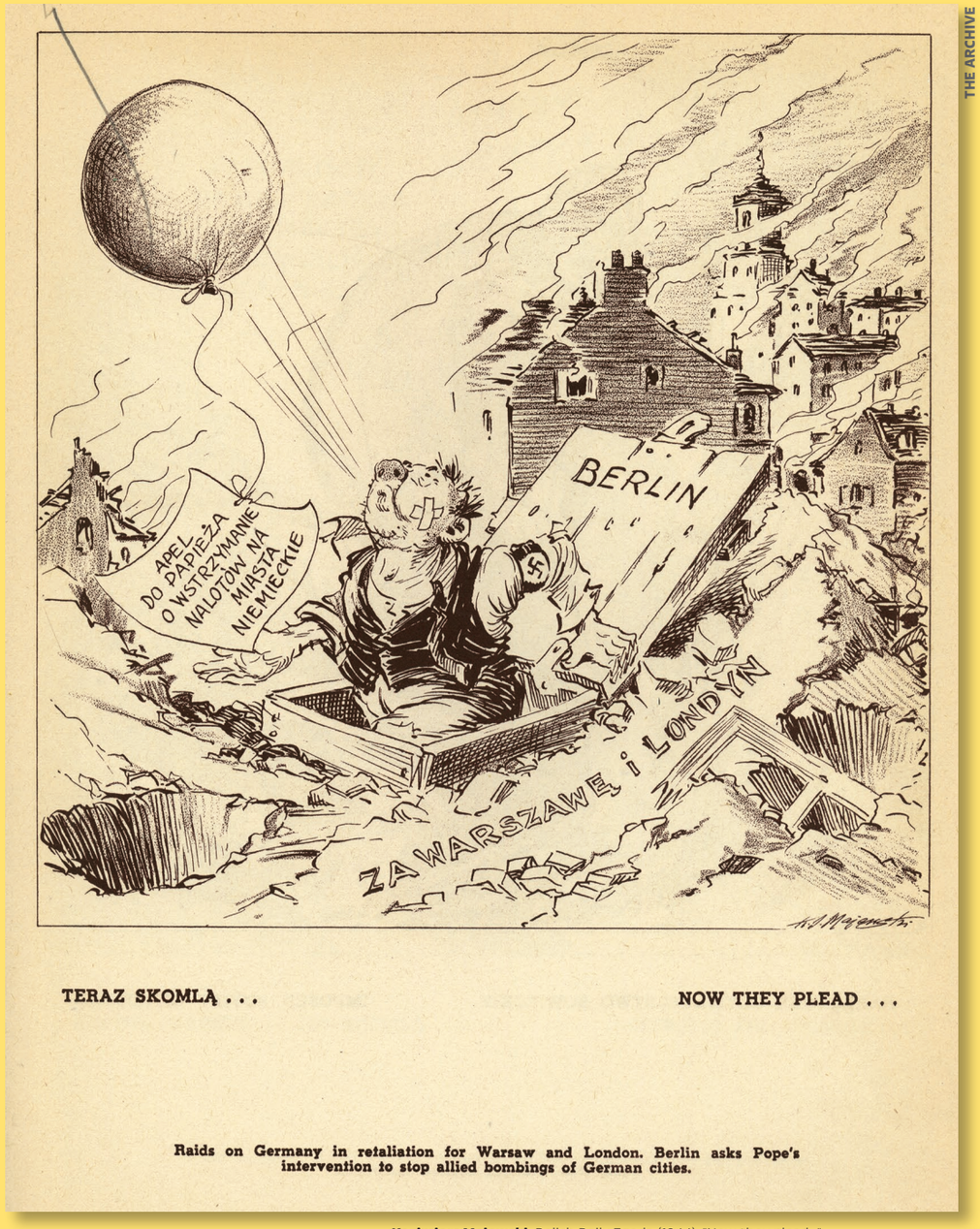
The aim of inflicting as much damage as possible on a country's cities continued with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. It was clear early on that one of Russia's main military goals was to take over the capital Kyiv, which ultimately failed. When the Russians targeted Mariupol, in a distinct echo of World War II, they leveled over 90 percent of its buildings, and still did not control the whole city.

The Russian invasion of a much smaller country that put up a good fight is nothing new. The 1939-1940 First Soviet-Finnish War was an exact precursor to today's Ukrainian invasion. Back then, a much smaller Finland took on Stalin's Russian armies and held them at bay. Stalin and Putin, two bisyllabic Russian dictators who liked destroying cities.

Warren Bernard
is an author/lecturer in the history of editorial-political cartoons and the executive director of the Small Press Expo

Wladyslaw Krawiec
Dziennik Chicagoski (1939)
Caption Translation: Mother, Don't Leave Us!

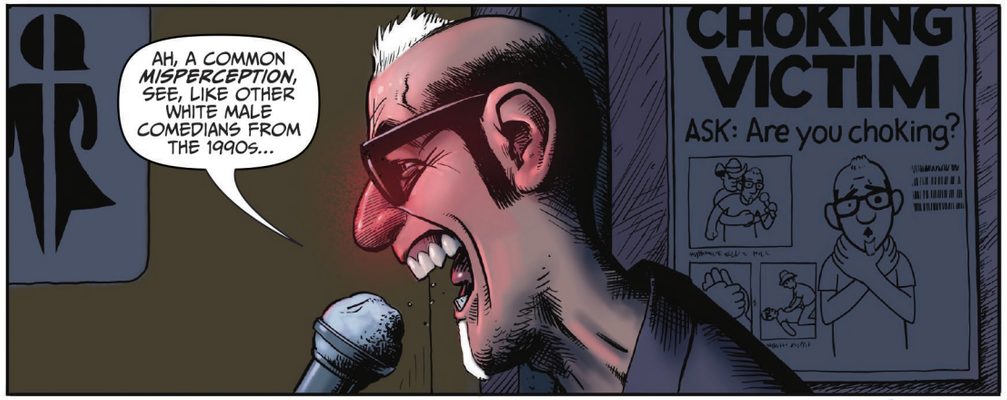
Jay "Ding" Darling, New York Herald Tribune (1939) "Will the Little House of Brick and Stone Stand"
After taking half of Poland in fall of 1939, Joseph Stalin tried to retrieve even more of the Czarist Russian Empire by declaring war on tiny Finland in November 1939. The cartoon uses the metaphor of the Three Little Pigs, with outmanned and outgunned Finland as the pig whose house was made of brick. Big Bad Wolf Stalin huffed and puffed, but as it happened with Putin and Ukraine, he could not blow the pig's house down.



Kazimiers Majewski, Polish Daily Zgoda (1944), "Now they plead..."
A beaten Nazi Berliner emerges from a bomb shelter to float a balloon with a message reading: "Appeal to pope to suspend air raids on Germany." In one of the great exhibits of international audacity, after destroying numerous countries, the Nazis asked the Vatican to intervene to help stop the bombing of German cities.

"The best satire in America is between these covers."
—DAVID SEDARIS

"I love this book."
—PATTON OSWALT



IN STORES NOW

AHOY COMICS™

FEATURES

LIFE UNDER THE GHETTO LAW

By Erlend Hjortland Sandøy

If you imagine a good welfare state, you might picture Denmark. Bike paths, health care, free education, and *PUBLIC HOUSING*.

One out of every five Danish homes are publicly owned and provide affordable living to . . .

students, low-income families, disabled people, and the elderly.

This emerged from the trauma of World War II, which left the country's housing situation in shambles.

In the following decades, Denmark's rapid industrialization and growth of union power led to an explosion of public housing projects across the country.

These apartments and houses were meant to have a fixed low rent, be conveniently located across the country's cities, and involve a large degree of resident autonomy and democracy.

. . .But something is rotten in the state of Denmark.

In the 1990s, Danish politics took a turn. The media put immigrants in the spotlight and questioned their right to public housing. Integration was out, and assimilation became the politicians' new demand.

Crime and unemployment in multicultural neighborhoods became THE issue. Social Democratic and Conservative governments alike competed on who could clamp down harder on what they labeled "ghettos."

It's worth mentioning that Denmark has one of the lowest homicide rates in the world,

and most crimes are petty theft.

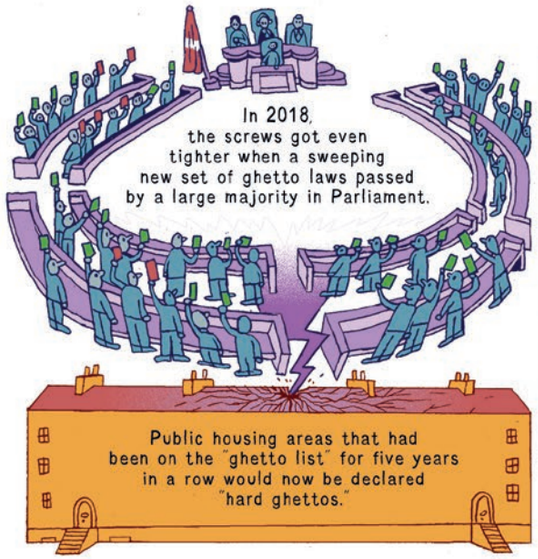
These efforts became collectively known as the "ghetto laws."

Several things happen when a neighborhood is labeled a "ghetto."

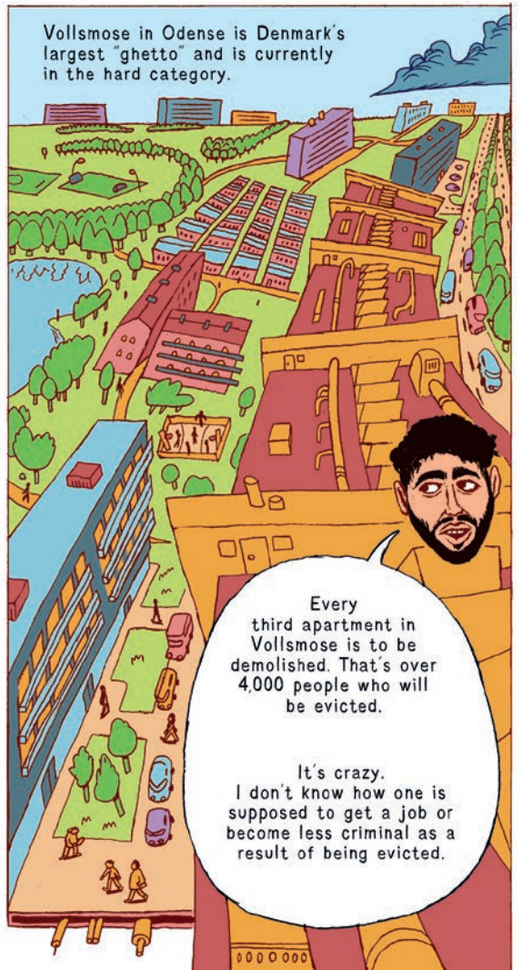
The police can create "increased sentencing zones" in the area, where crimes ranging from knife possession to traffic offenses to wearing a niqab result in harsher fines and longer prison sentences.

Plus, a child born there is declared a "ghetto child." Their parents are forced to send them to "integration Kindergartens" to be taught Danish values, under threat of social benefits removal.

Someone who is unemployed, not an EU citizen, low income, or disabled can also now be restricted from seeking apartments there.

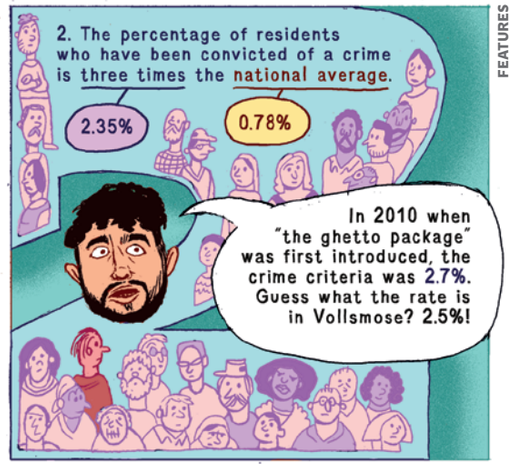

In 2018, the screws got even tighter when a sweeping new set of ghetto laws passed by a large majority in Parliament.
Public housing areas that had been on the "ghetto list" for five years in a row would now be declared "hard ghettos."

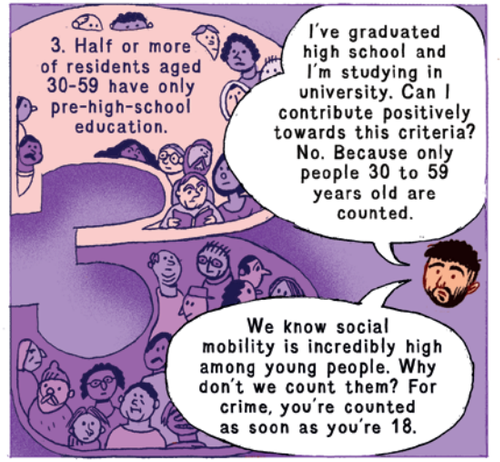
Now, municipalities must ensure that in a hard ghetto, family homes do not account for more than 40% of the area's dwellings.
Families are evicted, and their houses are sold for profit, repurposed, or demolished.

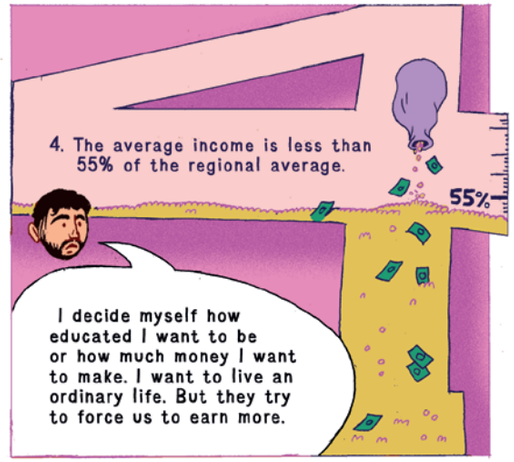

Vollsmose in Odense is Denmark's largest "ghetto" and is currently in the hard category.
Every third apartment in Vollsmose is to be demolished. That's over 4,000 people who will be evicted.
It's crazy. I don't know how one is supposed to get a job or become less criminal as a result of being evicted.

Ibrahim Al-Hassan is an activist and actor from Vollsmose. He is active in Almen Modstand (Public Resistance), a movement of public housing residents mobilizing against the ghetto laws.
By calling Vollsmose a ghetto, one ignores all the positive developments. Crime and unemployment are decreasing. But that's just ignored.

For a community to be declared a ghetto, only two out of these four criteria must be met:
1. The amount of residents aged 18-64 who are unemployed and not in school exceeds 40%.
In Vollsmose it's 48.7%. But 19.6% of those are people on early retirement, people who CANNOT work.


2. The percentage of residents who have been convicted of a crime is three times the national average.
2.35%
0.78%
In 2010 when "the ghetto package" was first introduced, the crime criteria was 2.7%. Guess what the rate is in Vollsmose? 2.5%!


3. Half or more of residents aged 30-59 have only pre-high-school education.
I've graduated high school and I'm studying in university. Can I contribute positively towards this criteria? No. Because only people 30 to 59 years old are counted.
We know social mobility is incredibly high among young people. Why don't we count them? For crime, you're counted as soon as you're 18.


4. The average income is less than 55% of the regional average.
55%
I decide myself how educated I want to be or how much money I want to make. I want to live an ordinary life. But they try to force us to earn more.

After those four criteria, there's one last deciding factor:
1
2
3
4
Half or more of the residents are of non-Western descent.
I always thought that my family and I were those who contributed to Vollsmose not being a ghetto or parallel society; I'm studying at the university and my parents work. We're doing well, as they call it.
GHETTO
But on the basis of our ethnicity alone, we are actually the reason it's a ghetto.

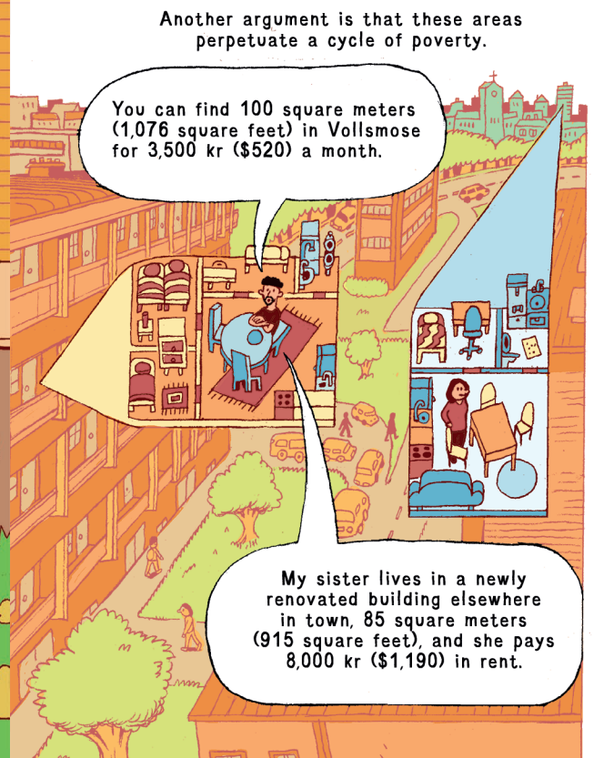
New arrivals in an unfamiliar place move where they know people, where they can afford, and where there's a familiar vibe. It's a story that's repeated all through history and over the world.
When I'm in Vollsmose I feel a completely different warmth from the people around me compared to central Odense. It's security, a sense of community I haven't felt anywhere else.

Despite the municipality's efforts to dissuade minorities from moving into the area, the existing community and access to social initiatives specific to their experience make Vollsmose an attractive place for many.

It's full of passionate souls who contribute to social volunteering work in order to solve some of the problems and challenges in Vollsmose.
My theater group, for example.
I'm also volunteering in a language club, where we help children's Danish language skills for two hours a week.
There's the activity club.
The sewing workshop.
A dancing center.
All sorts of things!

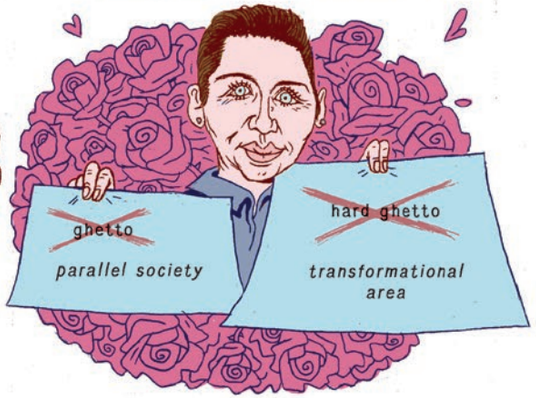
Politicians often argue that children growing up in "ghettos" have a harder time learning Danish.
But the destruction of these neighborhoods only makes that worse.
There's a girl in our language club whose name is Aysha. She lives with her mother and little brother. They fled from Iraq. The mother cannot read.

So who can help her daughter, language-wise? Her school and us in the language club. But her building is being demolished and the whole family evicted.
As soon as they've been evicted the daughter can no longer be a part of the language club because it's specifically for Vollsmose's residents.


Another argument is that these areas perpetuate a cycle of poverty.
You can find 100 square meters (1,076 square feet) in Vollsmose for 3,500 kr ($520) a month.
My sister lives in a newly renovated building elsewhere in town, 85 square meters (915 square feet), and she pays 8,000 kr ($1,190) in rent.

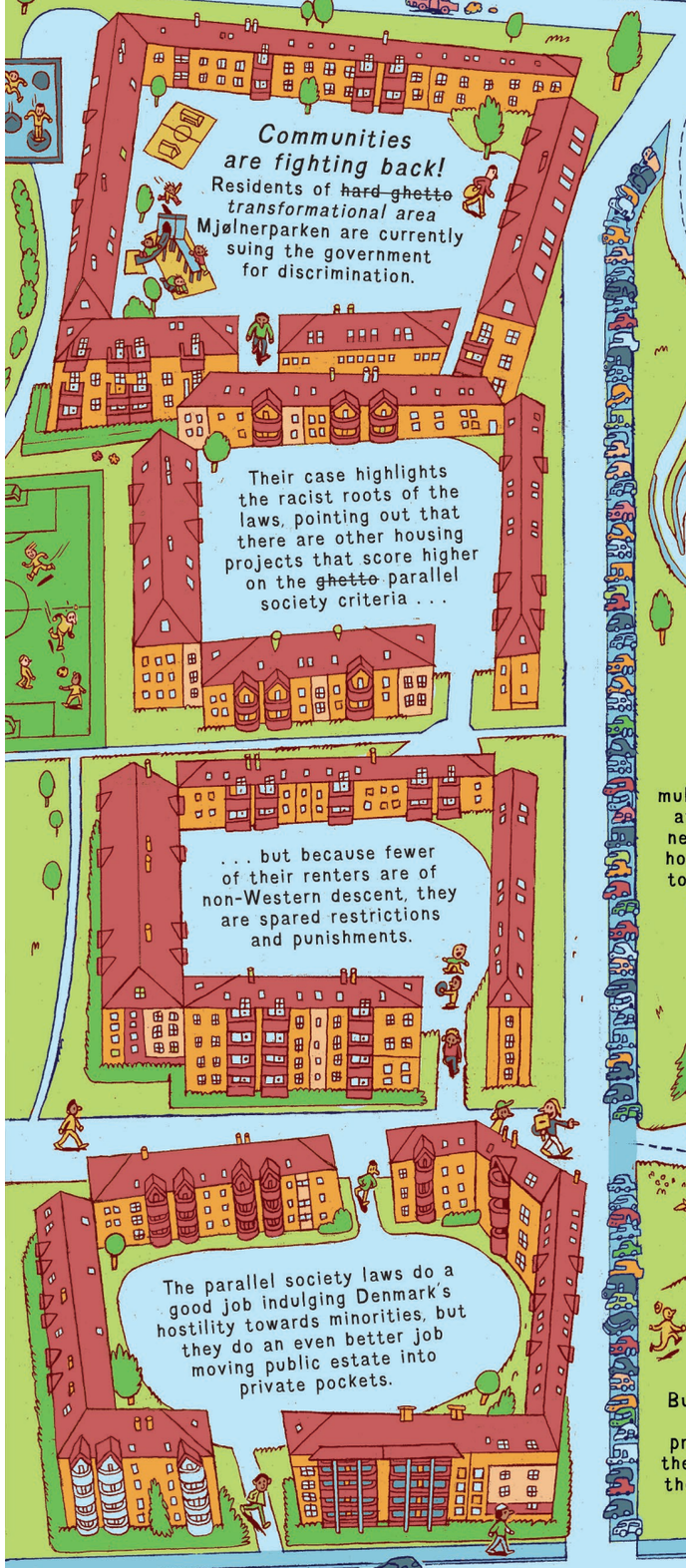
In Vollsmose, 1,000 apartments are being torn down and sold to a private housing company, which will build 1,600 luxury apartments that no ordinary person can afford. Where will the evicted residents go?

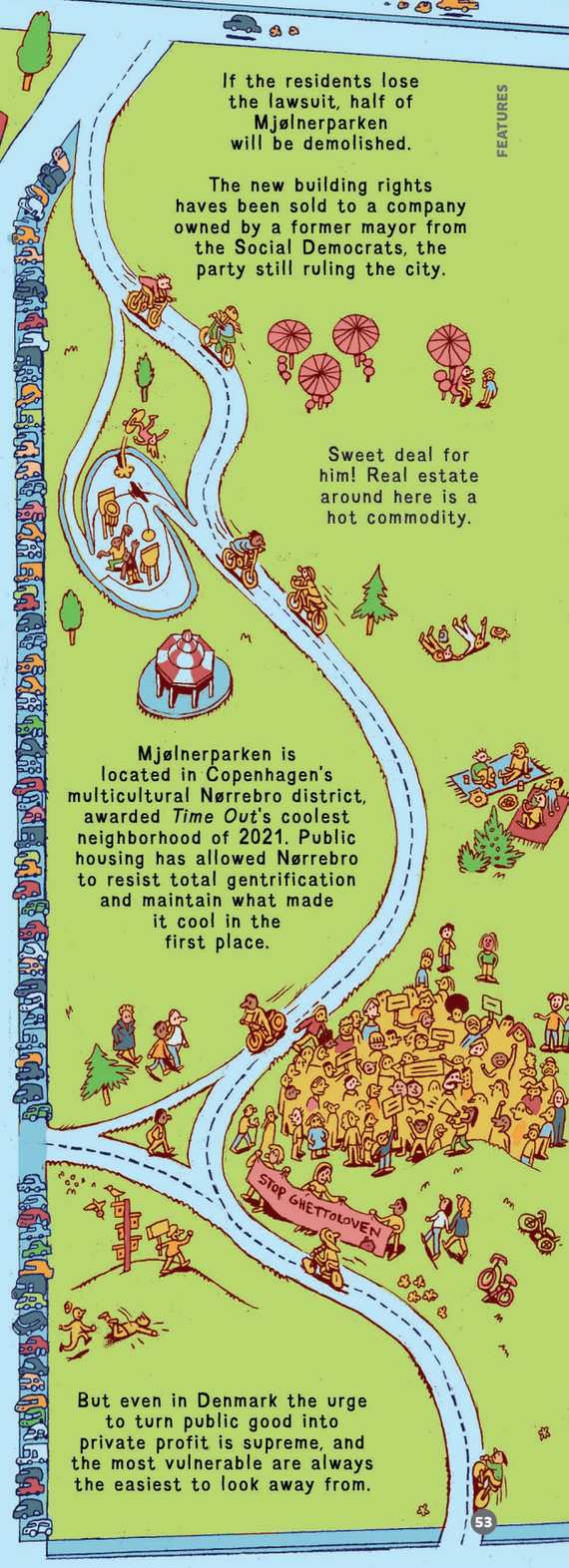
Three years later another reform arrived, changing the terminology. . .



specifying that the amount of residents of non-Western descent need only be 30% before the housing organizations once again can reject applications from people with low-income jobs, those unemployed, or those reliant on social services.

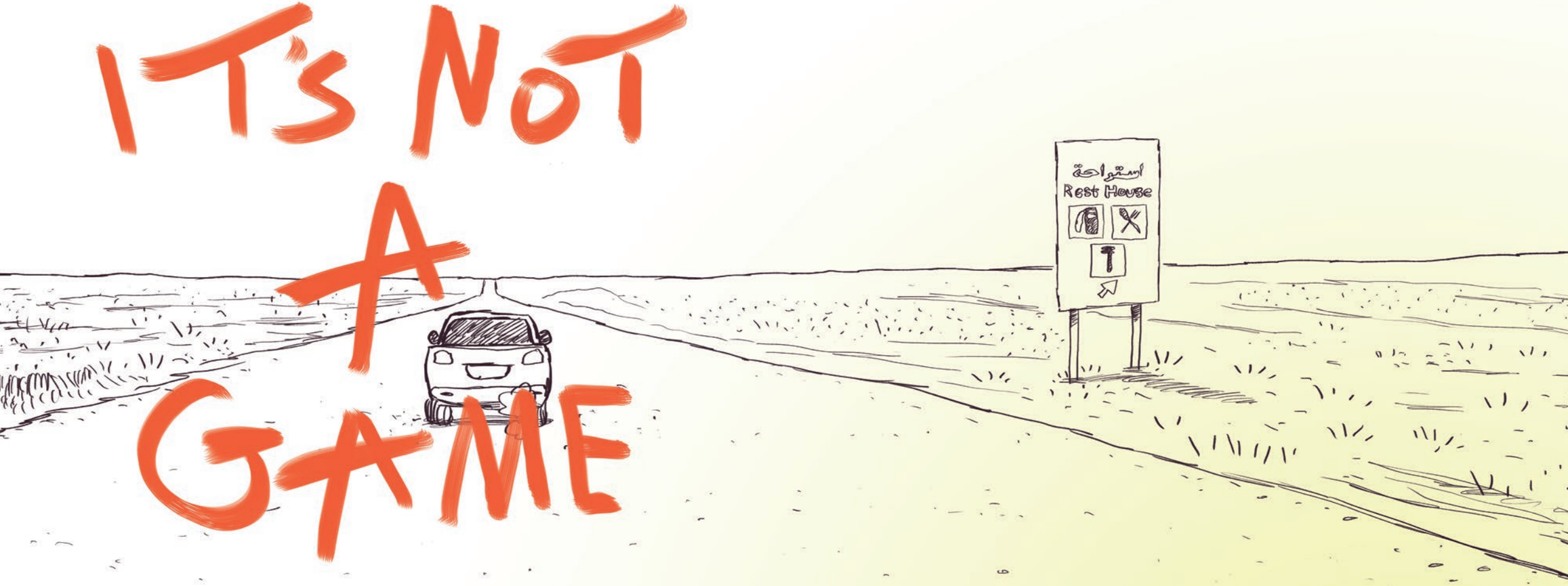
These are the very people whom public housing was originally intended for.





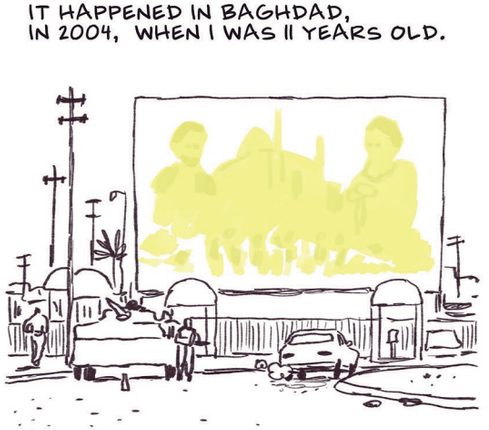
IT'S NOT A GAME

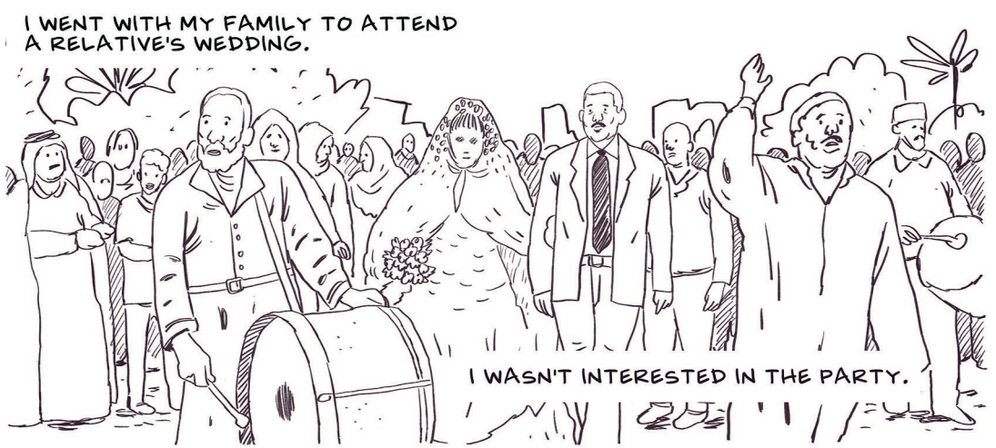
BY HUSSEIN ADIL

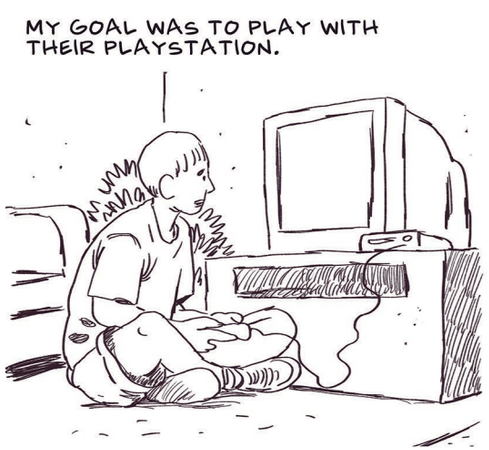


FEATURES

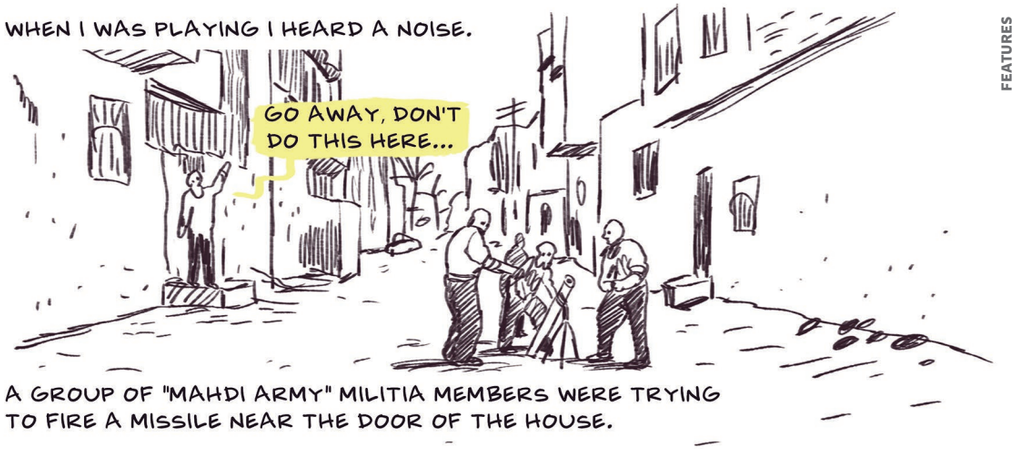
I AM HAIDER...


IT HAPPENED IN BAGHDAD, IN 2004, WHEN I WAS 11 YEARS OLD.


I WENT WITH MY FAMILY TO ATTEND A RELATIVE'S WEDDING.
I WASN'T INTERESTED IN THE PARTY.

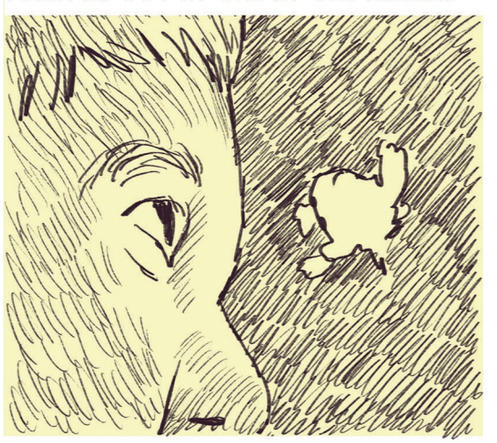

MY GOAL WAS TO PLAY WITH THEIR PLAYSTATION.

I WAS OBSESSED WITH A GTA GAME.


WHEN I WAS PLAYING I HEARD A NOISE.
GO AWAY, DON'T DO THIS HERE...
A GROUP OF "MAHDI ARMY" MILITIA MEMBERS WERE TRYING TO FIRE A MISSILE NEAR THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE.

THEN I HEARD LOUD EXPLOSIONS AND NON-STOP GUNFIRE.

EVERYONE IN THE PARTY RAN AWAY OR TRIED TO HIDE.


I LOOKED OUT OF ONE OF THE HOLES.

I SAW MANY MILITIA MEMBERS FILLING THE STREET.

AFTER THE END OF THE U.S.-IRAQ WAR IN 2003, MANY MILITIAS APPEARED.

INCLUDING THE "MAHDI ARMY" MILITIA, WHOSE GOAL WAS TO FIGHT THE AMERICAN ARMY.

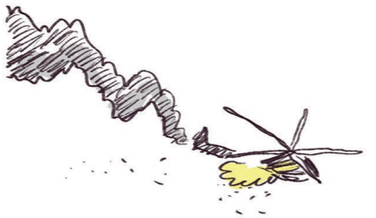
THEY CONTROLLED THE CITY AND IMPOSED THEIR RELIGIOUS SYSTEM ON SOCIETY.

THEY TRIED TO BAN SONGS, AND ONLY ALLOWED THEIR WAR SONGS TO BE HEARD.

THEY HURT EVERYONE WITH LONG HAIR.

HOURS LATER, THE BOMBING INTENSIFIED.

ON THAT DAY, MILITIAMEN SHOT DOWN AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER.



THE PILOT ESCAPED AND HID IN A MOSQUE.

MILITIA MEMBERS SURROUNDED THE PILOT IN THE MOSQUE.

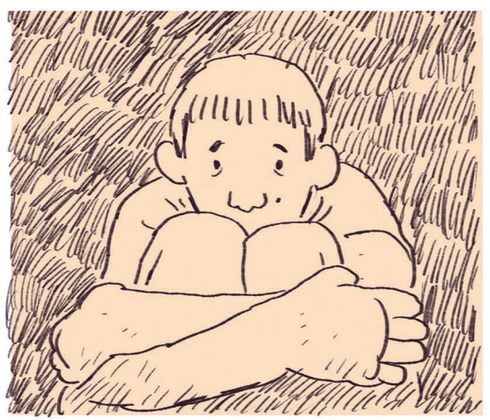
UNTIL THE AMERICAN MILITARY CONVOY CAME TO HIS RESCUE.

MY BROTHER WENT OUT TO FIND A CAR TO TAKE US HOME.

NIGHT CAME AND HE DIDN'T COME BACK.

I WAS TAKING COVER WITH MY FAMILY UNDER THE STAIRS OF THE HOUSE TO PROTECT US IN CASE A MISSILE FELL ON THE HOUSE.

WE WORRIED ABOUT HIM SO MUCH.

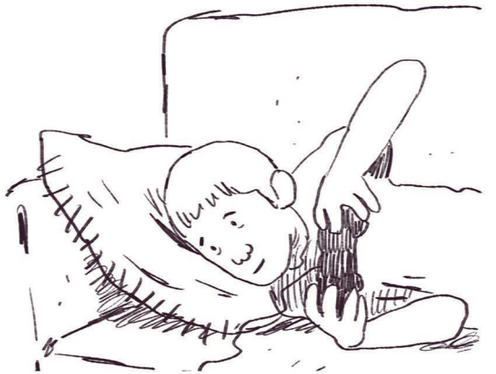


THEN—A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. WE THOUGHT IT WAS MY BROTHER.

IT WAS A GROUP OF IRAQI AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

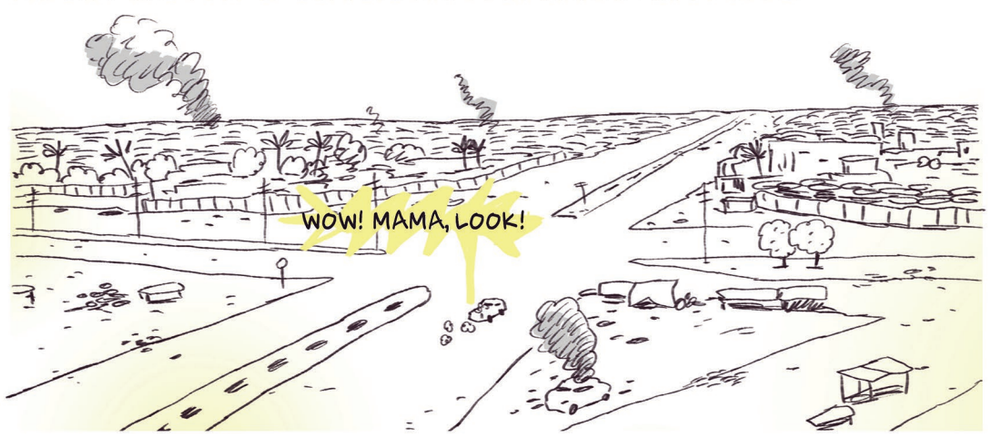
WE ASKED IF THEY HAD SEEN MY BROTHER.

AFTER MIDNIGHT, I LEFT MY FAMILY AND WENT TO PLAY GTA UNTIL MORNING.



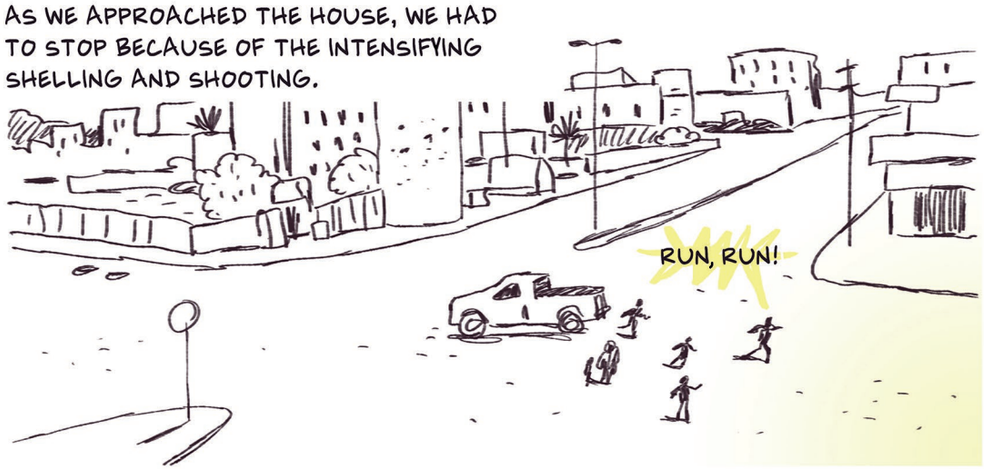
THE NEXT DAY, MY BROTHER CAME BACK AT 6 A.M. WITH A CAR.

THE CITY WAS FULL OF CORPSES AND AMERICAN ARMORED CARS.



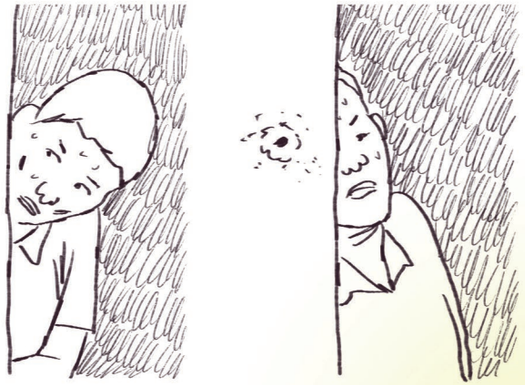
ON THE WAY, I SAW A SCENE I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN.

AN OLD WOMAN SELLING CHEESE NEAR AN AMERICAN TANK.

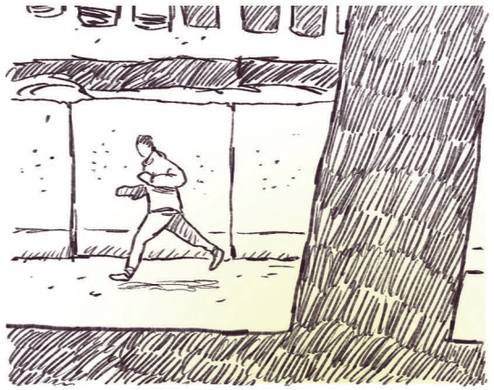

AS WE APPROACHED THE HOUSE, WE HAD TO STOP BECAUSE OF THE INTENSIFYING SHELLING AND SHOOTING.
RUN, RUN!

WE LEFT THE CAR AND WENT ON FOOT.

WE ARRIVED AT A STREET WITH A SNIPER IN IT.

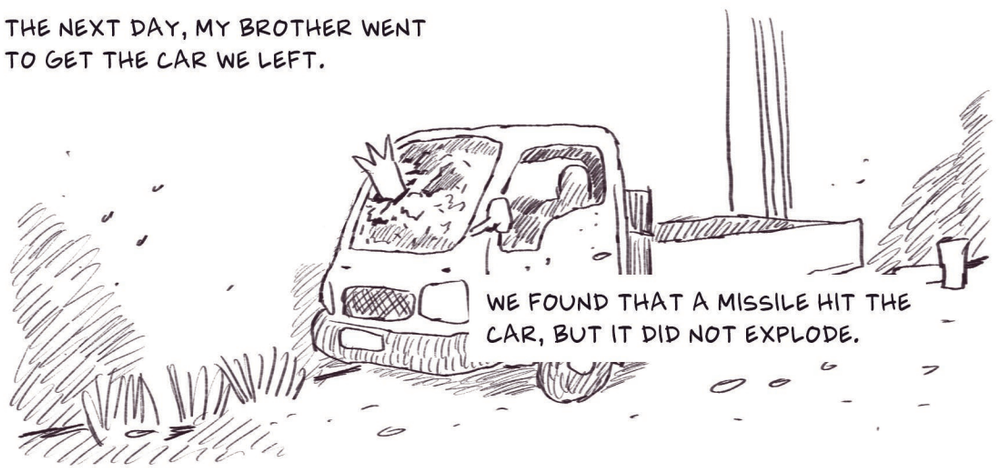

WE DID NOT KNOW WHICH SIDE HE BELONGED TO.

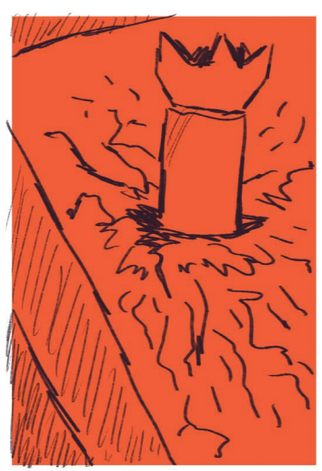
WE CROSSED THE STREET ONE BY ONE TO AVOID THE SNIPER.



FINALLY, WE GOT HOME.

THE NEXT DAY, MY BROTHER WENT TO GET THE CAR WE LEFT.





ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS PLAY MY GAME.

HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE DIASPORA

JIN HIEN LAU

IN 2012, I MET UP WITH MY FATHER IN HONG KONG TO ATTEND A RALLY CAMPAIGNING FOR MALAYSIA'S ELECTORAL REFORM.

WE'RE SECOND- AND THIRD-GENERATION MALAYSIAN CHINESE, BUT THE CRACKDOWNS ON THESE RALLIES WERE BECOMING DANGEROUS IN MALAYSIA. HONG KONG WAS THE SAFE CHOICE FOR PROTESTING.

THE PROTEST WAS GUARDED BY THE HONG KONG POLICE, WHOM MY DAD PRAISED INCESSANTLY THROUGHOUT THE RALLY.

HONG KONG POLICE ARE THE MOST WELL-MANNERED IN ASIA, YOU KNOW THEY TAKE ETIQUETTE CLASSES?

OH, LIKE FINISHING SCHOOL FOR VICTORIAN LADIES?

IN 2019, AS HONG KONG'S OWN PEOPLE ROSE UP, THE POLICE ABANDONED THAT ETIQUETTE.

JULY 2019: POLICE DELIBERATELY DELAY RESPONDING TO WHITE-SHIRT THUGS INDISCRIMINATELY BEATING COMMUTERS AT THE YUEN LONG MTR STATION.

OCTOBER 2019: HONG KONG POLICE BLIND INDONESIAN JOURNALIST VEBY MEGA INDAH.

NOVEMBER 2019: HONG KONG POLICE SHOOT AN UNIDENTIFIED PROTESTOR ON CAMERA.

砰!

SO WHAT DOES HONG KONG MEAN TO THE 40-MILLION-STRONG CHINESE DIASPORA OUT THERE, LIKE ME AND MY FATHER?

TAP TAP

HONG KONG'S POP CULTURE PEAKED IN THE EARLY '80s AND '90s, BLEAK EVER SINCE '97. I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE ANTI-CORRUPTION THEMES AND STRONG MATRIARCHS OF ITS TV DRAMAS AS A KID.

DANIEL CHONG
TEACHER FROM MALAYSIA

WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL ALL THE HK'ERS HAD THE COOLEST STYLE AND TRENDIEST CLOTHES, THEY SEEMED TO BE LIGHT YEARS AHEAD OF THE OTHER ASIAN DIASPORA KIDS. AND THEY SPOKE VERY FAST. I THINK THIS CEMENTED IN ME THIS IMPRESSION OF HK AS EXCITING, OTHERWORLDLY, AND FAST. I DIDN'T GET TO VISIT UNTIL I WAS AN ADULT, BUT IT ABSOLUTELY CONFIRMED THESE CHILDHOOD IMPRESSIONS.

RACHEL ANG
WRITER/COMIC ARTIST
BASED IN AUSTRALIA

AS SOMEBODY WHO CONTINUES TO NOT REALLY FIT IN ANYWHERE AND HAS TO CODE-SWITCH OUT OF NECESSITY, I SEE MYSELF IN HONG KONG MORE AND MORE—IT BEING A PLACE AND PEOPLE THAT HAS ITS OWN STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY BUT IS CONSTANTLY BEING FORCED TO CONFORM TO THE IMAGE OF OTHERS.

DYLAN CHEUNG
FILM SUBTITLER BASED IN AUSTRALIA

HONG KONG IS NOW A PLACE FOR NOSTALGIA ONLY, THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND A FREE ECONOMY ARE NOW OVER. I'M GLAD I GOT TO EXPERIENCE THE REMAINING FEW YEARS. I'LL MISS THE ENERGY, PEOPLE, AND HONG KONG SPIRIT, BUT I UNFORTUNATELY I WON'T BE BACK.

KEVIN CHENG
TAIWANESE AUSTRALIAN FOOD WRITER

MOVIES, TVB, CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAYS, OCEAN PARK.

AMANDA NELL EU
MALAYSIAN FILMMAKER

OH YEEEAAA OCEAN PARK

HONG KONG WASN'T ALWAYS A METROPOLIS FILLED WITH SKYSCRAPERS. ONCE IT WAS AN ISLAND PERCHED AT THE END OF THE PEARL DELTA RIVER IN THE SOUTHEAST OF CHINA.

中国
CHINA
英屬香港
HONG KONG

THIS ISLAND WAS CEDED TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1841 BY THE QING DYNASTY GOVERNMENT OF CHINA BETWEEN TWO WARS OVER BRITAIN SELLING OPIUM TO THE CHINESE PUBLIC.

FOR THE FIRST 130 YEARS OF BRITISH OCCUPATION, THE PLACE WAS RUN LIKE ANY OTHER BRITISH COLONY OF THE ERA: THE SPOILS WENT TO THE VERY (MOSTLY WHITE) TOP.

LITERALLY AT THE TOP. PROMINENT WHITE COLONIALISTS RESIDED ON VICTORIA PEAK (ELEVATION 552 m).

THE LOCAL CHINESE POPULATION LACKED HOUSING, EDUCATION, AND CIVIL RIGHTS UNTIL A LABOR DISPUTE IN 1967 INCITED RIOTS.

永星水电
服洋美

TO QUELL BURGEONING ANTICOLONIAL AND LEFTIST SENTIMENTS, GOVERNOR "JOCK SOCK" MURRAY MACLEHOSE INTRODUCED SWEEPING POLICY CHANGES TO HONG KONG THAT GREATLY IMPROVED THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIVING STANDARDS OF ITS PEOPLE.

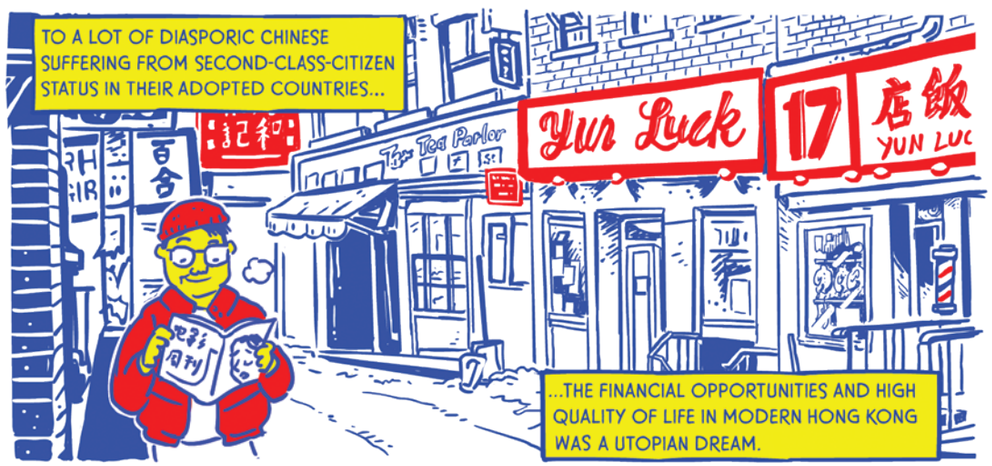
HOUSING
MTR
WELFARE

DURING HIS TENURE, HONG KONG'S "POSITIVE NON-INTERVENTIONISM" POLICY CEMENTED GROWTH, MAKING THE CITY'S ECONOMY ONE OF THE MOST FREE AND COMPETITIVE IN THE WORLD.

RENT IS SO EXPENSIVE
SOME PEOPLE HAVE TO LIVE IN 2 Metre cages
MADE MY FORTUNE IN REAL ESTATE, BABY!!
RICHEST MAN IN HONG KONG: LEE KA SHING

AS CHINESE EMIGRANTS FOUNDED COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD, THEY WERE OFTEN MET WITH DISCRIMINATION. SOME OF THE OLDEST IMMIGRATION LAWS TARGETED THEM.

MANY COUNTRIES HAD VARIATIONS OF CHINESE EXCLUSION LAWS UNTIL THE LATTER HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY.



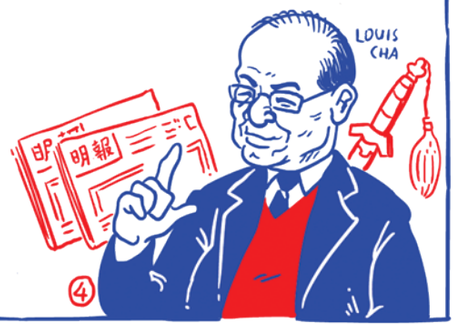
HOMESICK AND ALIENATED FIRST-GENERATION CHINESE MIGRANTS CONSUMED HONG KONG (AND TAIWANESE) MEDIA VORACIOUSLY BECAUSE THEY WERE THE MOST WIDELY AVAILABLE OVERSEAS.

RAIDED AND WITH ASSETS FROZEN, *APPLE DAILY*, A PRO-DEMOCRACY TABLOID, PRINTED ITS LAST ISSUE ON JUNE 24TH, 2021.

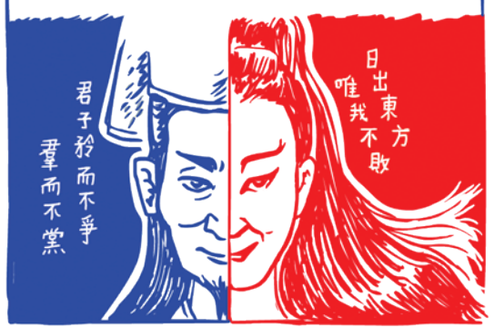
HONG KONG HAS LONG BEEN A CULTURAL HUB TO THE SINOSPHERE. CHINESE INTELLIGENTSIA AND ARTISTS WHO SOUGHT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION WITHOUT FEAR OF PERSECUTION TOOK REFUGE IN HONG KONG FROM THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR (1927 – 1949) ONWARDS.

THE FOUR MOST INFLUENTIAL WRITERS OF HONG KONG, ALL MIGRANTS TO THE ISLAND.

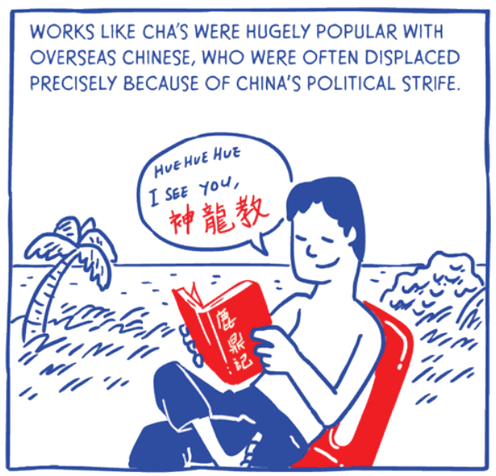
PEOPLE LIKE LOUIS CHA, A WUXIA (CHIVALROUS SWORDPLAY) NOVELIST WHOSE WORK BECAME SO POPULAR HE STARTED HIS OWN NEWSPAPER, *MINGPAO*, TO MEET SERIALIZATION DEMAND.



THE RELATIVE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN COLONIAL HONG KONG ALLOWED CREATORS LIKE CHA TO INCORPORATE THINLY VEILED ALLEGORIES AND CRITICISMS OF BOTH SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPLIT OF POST-CIVIL WAR CHINA.



WORKS LIKE CHA'S WERE HUGELY POPULAR WITH OVERSEAS CHINESE, WHO WERE OFTEN DISPLACED PRECISELY BECAUSE OF CHINA'S POLITICAL STRIFE.



THE PEAK OF HONG KONG'S CULTURAL INFLUENCE CAME ABOUT IN THE 1980S VIA THE POPULARITY OF HONG KONG ACTION FILM AND COMEDIES.

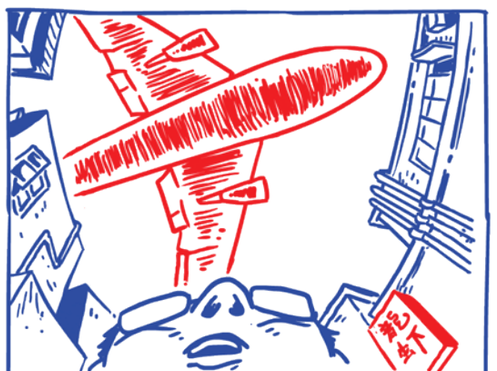
BY THE EARLY '90S, HONG KONG WAS PRODUCING 300 MOVIES A YEAR. PER CAPITA, IT WAS THE MOST ACTIVE FILM INDUSTRY ON THE PLANET.

IN 1984, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER AND CHINA'S CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING AGREED TO TRANSFER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HONG KONG BACK TO COMMUNIST CHINA ON JULY 1, 1997.

TO REASSURE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG THAT THE TRANSITION WOULD NOT AFFECT THEIR WAY OF LIFE OR ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, DENG SAID:

HONG KONGERS WERE GENERALLY APATHETIC TOWARDS THE ANNOUNCEMENT,

PEOPLE WERE CONFIDENT THAT WITHIN THE 50 YEARS OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS," CHINA ITSELF WOULD ADOPT THE GLOBAL CAPITALIST ECONOMY.



IN THE 1980S, WITH MOST OF THE WORLD'S CHINESE EXCLUSION LAWS ABOLISHED, AFFLUENT HONG KONGERS BEGAN MIGRATING.

MOST OF THEM MOVED TO CANADA, THE U.K., AND AUSTRALIA TO PURSUE A COMFORTABLE MIDDLE-CLASS EXISTENCE.

A GENRE OF FILMS AND LITERATURE FORMED DURING THIS TIME DEPICTING ROMANTIC MIGRANT EXPERIENCES, THUS MELDING HONG KONG CULTURE DIRECTLY TO THAT OF THE OVERSEAS DIASPORA.

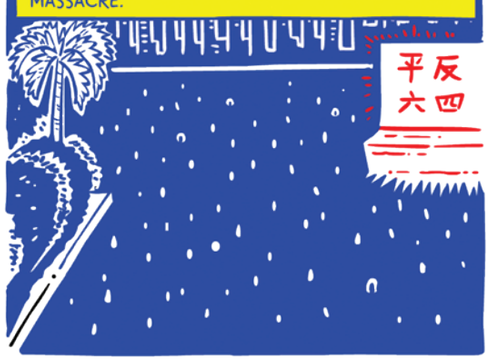
IN 1989, FOR A WHOLE WEEK, MY FATHER DROVE US ALL TO A FAMILY FRIEND'S HOUSE TO WATCH LIVE SATELLITE TELEVISION COVERAGE ON HONG KONG AND TAIWANESE CHANNELS.

YEARS LATER I REALIZED IT WAS HONG KONG NEWS COVERAGE OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE PROTESTS.

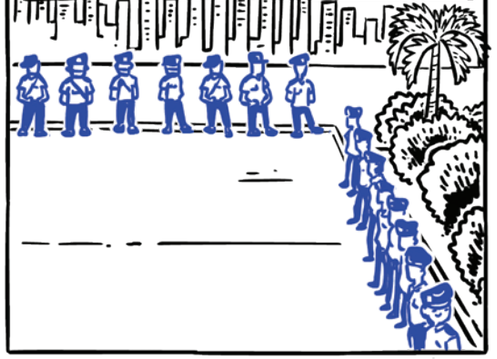
IT WAS ALL A BORING BLUR FOR 5-YEAR-OLD ME, BUT I REMEMBER RECOGNIZING A BUNCH OF MEGASTARS SINGING AT THE RALLIES.

THERE WERE RALLIES BY CHINESE COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD IN SUPPORT OF THE PROTESTORS IN BEIJING, BUT HONG KONG HAD THE MOST TURNOUTS AT 1.5 MILLION.

FROM 1990 ONWARD, VICTORIA PARK IN HONG KONG STARTED HOSTING ANNUAL VIGILS FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TIANANMEN MASSACRE.



IN 2021, SEVEN THOUSAND POLICEMEN WERE DEPLOYED TO SURROUND THE PARK AND NOT LET A SINGLE PERSON IN.



IN 2019, THE CITY WAS ENGULFED IN A SERIES OF VIOLENT PROTESTS STEMMING FROM A PROPOSED BILL GIVING BEIJING POWER TO EXTRADITE ANY CRIMINAL FROM HONG KONG TO BE PROCESSED IN MAINLAND CHINA UNDER MAINLAND CHINA LAW.

HONG KONGERS FEARED CHINA WOULD USE THIS LAW TO EXTRADITE POLITICAL DISSIDENTS, STRIPPING HONG KONGS LIMITED AUTONOMY

加油

5 DEMANDS NOT 1

光復香港 時代革命

NEARLY TWO MILLION TOOK TO THE STREETS

反送

IT MIRRORED THE 2014 OCCUPY MOVEMENT

警察 POLICE

警察 POLICE

EXCEPT THE POLICE RESPONSE WAS WORSE. MUCH, MUCH WORSE.

JUST LIKE BEIJING IN '89, THE WORLD WAS WATCHING.

IN SEPTEMBER, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HONG KONG, CARRIE LAM, WITHDREW THE EXTRADITION BILL.

BUT LESS THAN A YEAR LATER, IN THE QUIET OF THE PANDEMIC,

AWAY FROM THE PRYING EYES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS...

SHE ANNOUNCED THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, A SET OF VAGUELY TERMED LAWS THAT GAVE HONG KONG POLICE AUTHORITY TO ARREST ANYONE AND SHUT DOWN ANY ORGANIZATION DEEMED A THREAT TO "NATIONAL SECURITY."

国安法

UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, A SINGLE SOCIAL MEDIA POST CAN LAND YOU IN JAIL.

SOMEONE TAKE OVER HONG KONG

YOU'RE DONE

CHOW HANG TUNG, THE ORGANIZER OF THE ANNUAL TIANANMEN VIGILS, WAS ARRESTED ON THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE. SHE WAS CHARGED WITH "INCITING OTHERS TO KNOWINGLY JOIN AN UNAUTHORIZED ASSEMBLY."

SERVING 22 MONTHS JAIL TIME

ON AUGUST 28 2020, 12 HONG KONG PROTESTERS TRYING TO FLEE TO TAIWAN BY SPEEDBOAT WERE ARRESTED BY CHINA'S MARINE POLICE.

TWO OF THEM WERE MINORS

中国海军

IN 2021, BRITAIN STARTED OFFERING VISAS TO OVERSEAS BRITISH NATIONALS. HONG KONGERS BORN BEFORE JULY 1, 1997 ARE ELIGIBLE.

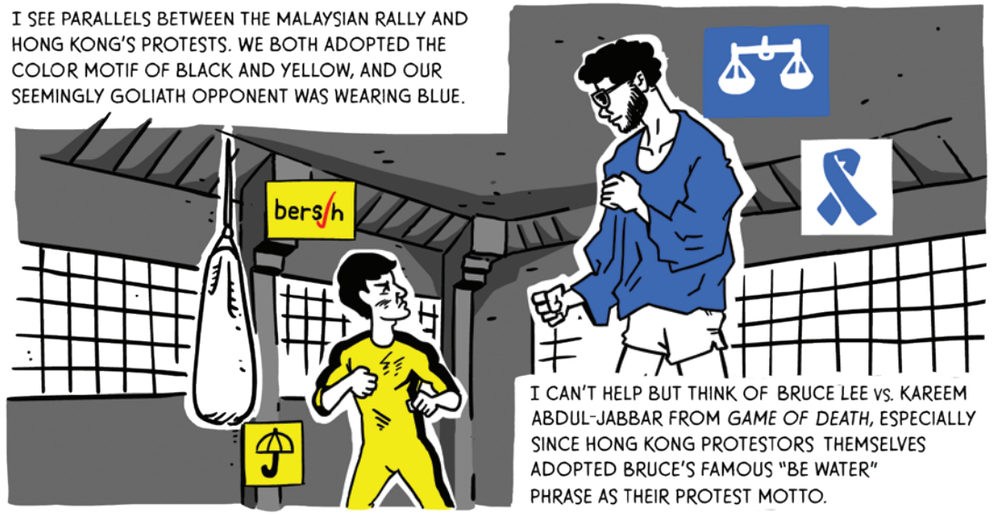
COME, ENJOY ALL THE BENEFITS OF A POST-BREXIT U.K.

THAT STILL LEAVES YOUNG ACTIVISTS UNDER THE AGE OF 25 WITHOUT AN OPTION.

ON MAY 10, 2018, MY FATHER SENT ME A MESSAGE LETTING ME KNOW THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM COLONIAL BRITAIN, MALAYSIA FINALLY HAD A REGIME CHANGE.

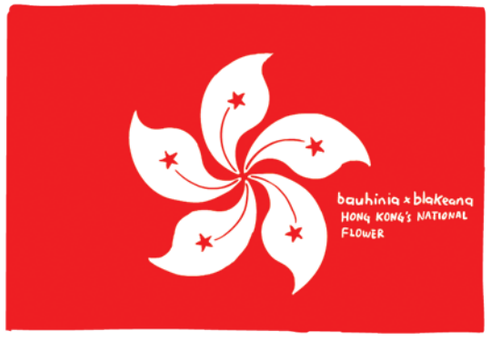
MY DAD ALSO SENT ME A PICTURE HE TOOK OF A JOURNALIST DECKED OUT IN BRUCE LEE'S YELLOW AND BLACK JUMPSUIT AT THE 2012 HONG KONG RALLY.

I SEE PARALLELS BETWEEN THE MALAYSIAN RALLY AND HONG KONG'S PROTESTS. WE BOTH ADOPTED THE COLOR MOTIF OF BLACK AND YELLOW, AND OUR SEEMINGLY GOLIATH OPPONENT WAS WEARING BLUE.



I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF BRUCE LEE VS. KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR FROM *GAME OF DEATH*, ESPECIALLY SINCE HONG KONG PROTESTORS THEMSELVES ADOPTED BRUCE'S FAMOUS "BE WATER" PHRASE AS THEIR PROTEST MOTTO.

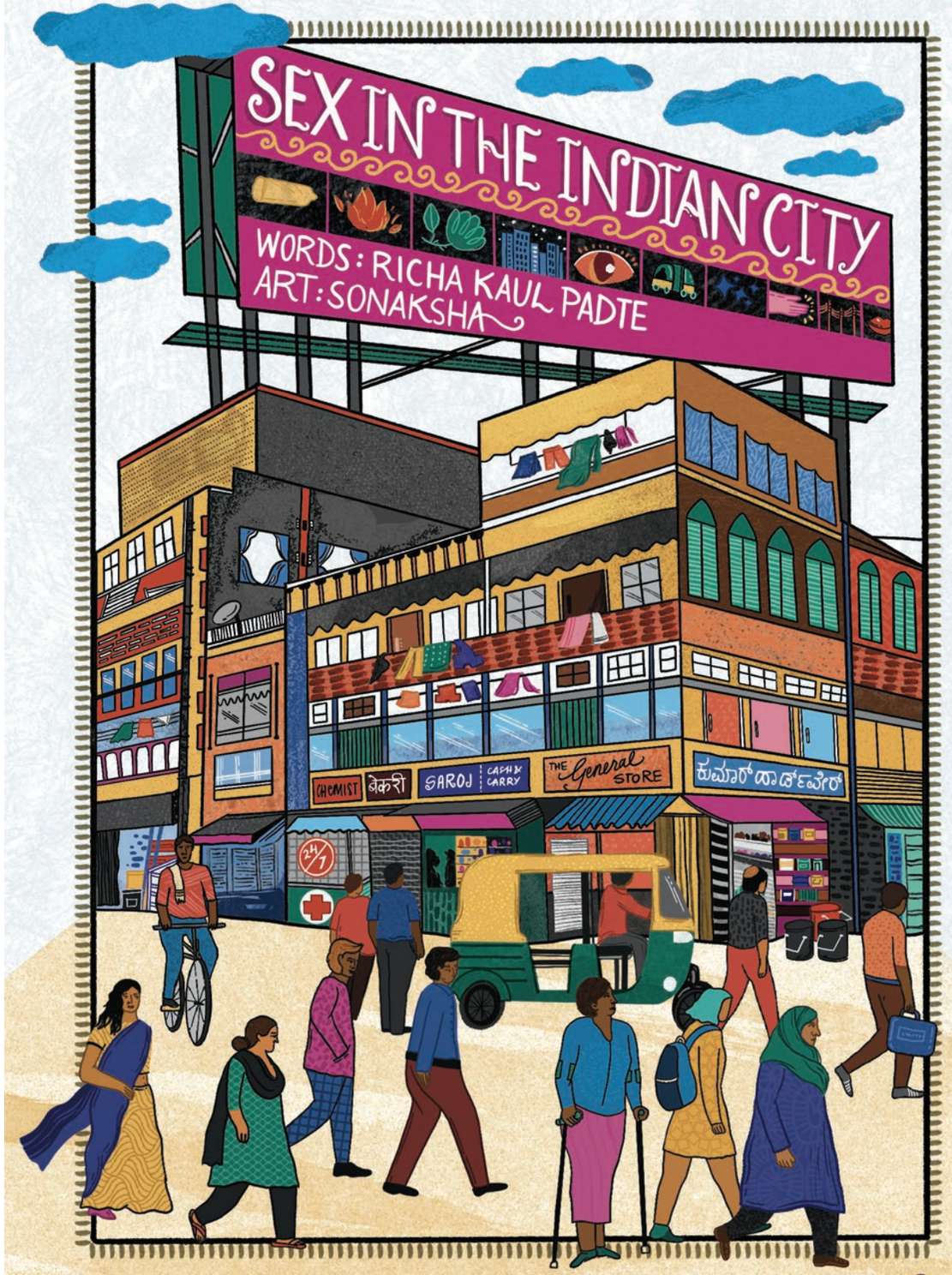
FOR HALF A CENTURY, HONG KONG GAVE A VOICE TO THE VULNERABLE OF THE CHINESE DIASPORA WHEN WE NEEDED IT MOST.



YET NOW, NO MATTER HOW LOUD THE CITY YELLS FOR AUTONOMY, THEIR VOICES ONLY FALL ON DEAF EARS.

SEX IN THE INDIAN CITY

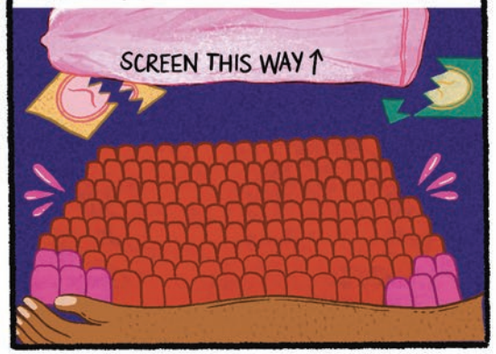
WORDS: RICHA KAUL PADTE
ART: SONAKSHA



Who among us hasn't been fingered in the back of a Bombay auto rickshaw?

Or made out in a deserted carriage of the Delhi underground late at night?

Or booked the furthest corner seats of a movie theater, packing a condom in their purse?



For people living in Indian cities – in particular, young, unmarried, queer, gender diverse, poor, or sex working folks – spaces of privacy are practically impossible to come by.

Crowded homes, doors without locks, homelessness, and the watchful gaze of family members mean that sexual intimacy is often sought in public, or semi-public, spaces.

Cities become twin sites of pleasure and risk, freedom and surveillance – shaped by the very sexualities that they, in turn, affect.

GENDER in INDIA

Before 200 years of British occupation, there were a multitude of accepted sexual and gender identities in the Indian subcontinent.

But this acceptance did not apply to everyone equally.

Hinduism birthed the Kama Sutra, but it also ensured people from oppressed castes had little freedom in their lives, including their sexual lives.

Caste Structure Figure Analysis: Equality Labs, 2018

Today, Narendra Modi's Hindu right-wing government is intent on creating a singular "pure" nation, where pluralities are perceived as threats, and sexual diversities are termed "Western imports."

The Indian family occupies a sacred role in this cultural battle, and women's bodies act as metaphors for nation-building.

This means that venues for sexual and gender expression are in short supply.

Enter cities.

Fighting for "the annihilation of caste," Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, a key author of the Indian constitution, encouraged fellow Dalits* to move from villages to cities.

*belonging to caste-oppressed groups

With villages segregated along ancestral caste lines, Ambedkar saw in cities the promise of comparative anonymity.

Here, a variety of freedoms for marginalized folks could be realized.

This includes sexual freedoms made possible by anonymity.

Today in Indian cities, public toilets, railway stations, and historical landmarks serve as gay cruising sites.

Movie theaters showing low-budget films are also venues for working-class men to have sexual encounters with each other.

As in much of the world, public space is deeply gendered, which makes clandestine intimacy much harder for women to access.

Yet the sexual female body is still a part of cityscapes, from erotic lavani dances to young women out on dates.

And for those in power, this is a threat.

Across India, in a cementing of long-held status quos, cities are being sanitized along class and caste lines.

In Hyderabad, public parks are changing entry rules.

In Delhi, apartment buildings are locking garden gates in the hot afternoons.

Kamathipura, Bombay's once-vibrant working-class red light district, is being systematically "redeveloped."

KAMATHIPURA
estimated numbers of sex workers by year:

1980s
100,000 women

1992
50,000 women

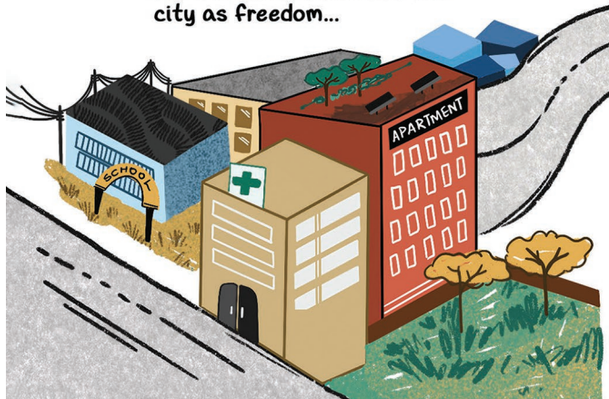
2009
1,600 women

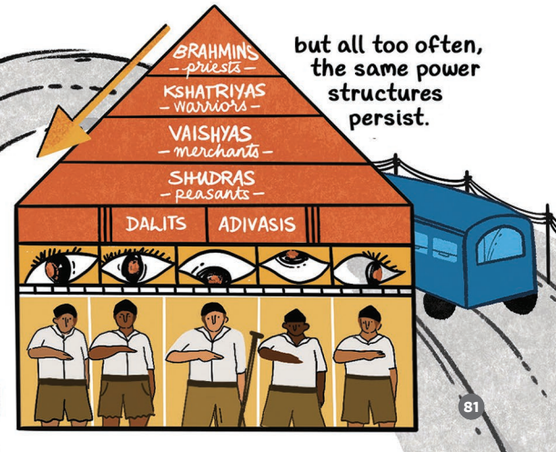
2020
fewer than 1,000 women

Elite hotels, where "high-end escorts" work, are not subject to similar crackdowns.

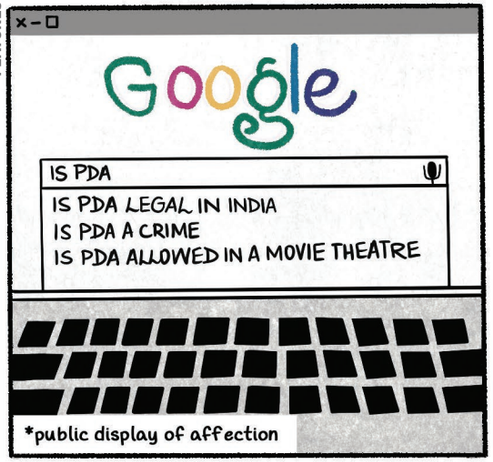
Source: *Intimate City*, Manjima Bhattacharjya, 2021

Dr. Ambedkar dreamt of the city as freedom...





but all too often, the same power structures persist.



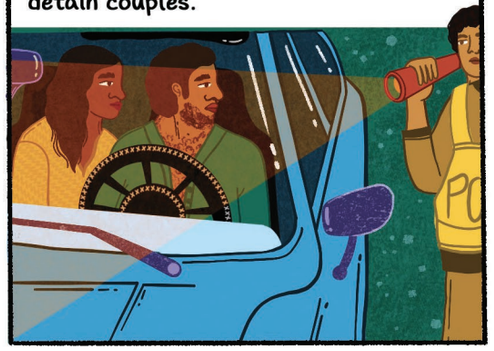
Obscenity law, enacted by the British in 1860 (and still in effect today) is vague...

...and applied randomly.

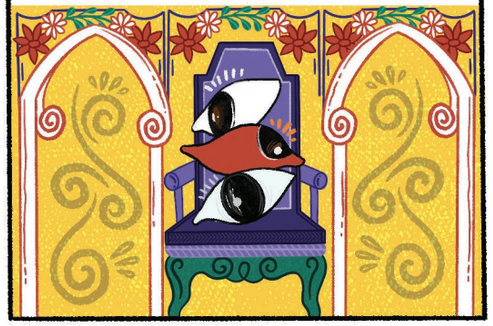
At least 97,000 public obscenity cases were filed between 2015 and 2020. But this number doesn't distinguish between consensual and non-consensual sex.

Source: Daksh India, 2022

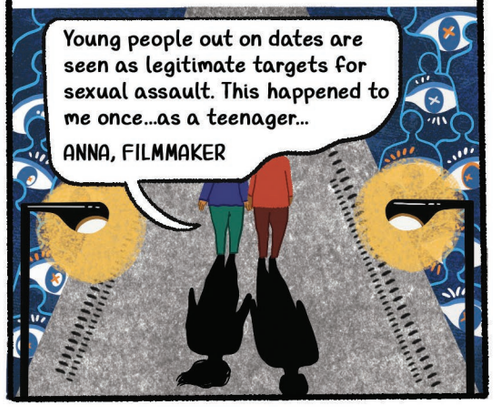
And what counts as public space? Private cars are...private. But police still rap on windows and illegally detain couples.



Victorian morality saw everything related to sex as immoral. More than 70 years after independence from the British, India still does.



There are other types of violence too.



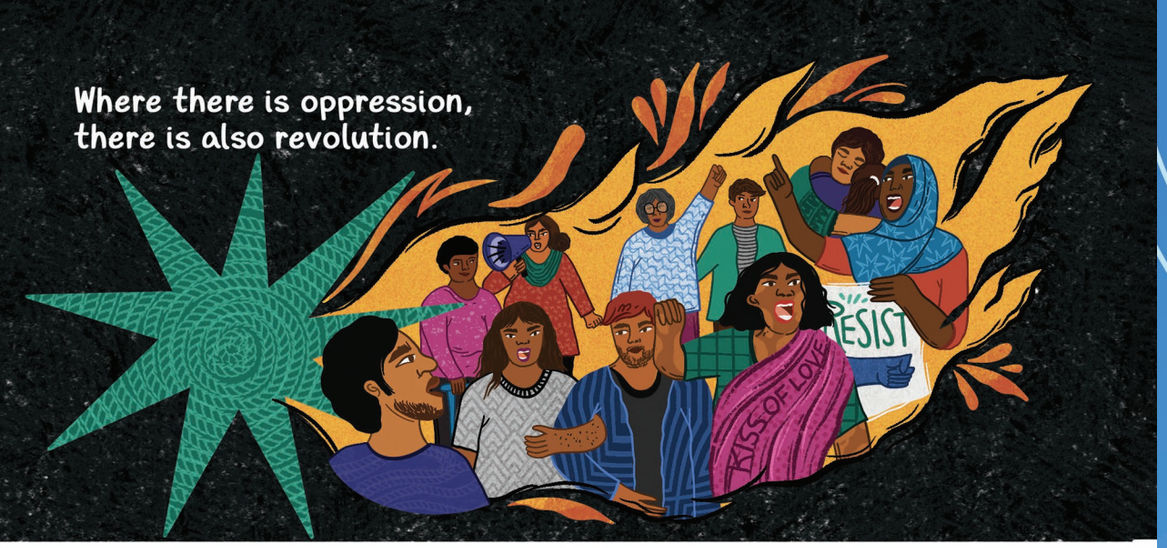
More than the law, a wide, far-reaching machinery of respectability politics threatens people seeking intimacy.

The threat of exposure is reinforced by surveillance technology.

In 2013, 250 CCTV video clips were uploaded to a porn site.

This results in a heightened landscape of self-surveillance. An anticipatory muting of bodies and sexual selves, every single day.

Source: Anja Kovacs, Deep Dives, 2020



MABUHAY, I-HOTEL

THE LIFE – AND AFTERLIFE – OF SAN FRANCISCO'S MANILATOWN

BY TRIPLE DREAM COMICS

IN 1977, JEANETTE LAZAM MOVED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, A SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY BUILDING (SRO) IN SAN FRANCISCO'S MANILATOWN.

AT THE AGE OF 28, SHE CAME TO HELP THE RESIDENTS, MOST OF THEM OLDER FILIPINO MEN LIKE HER FATHER (REFERRED TO AS MANONGS*), WHO WERE BEING THREATENED WITH EVICTION.

NO EVICTIONS

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

COMMUNITY CENTER

WE WON'T

*MANONG: AN ILOCANO WORD MEANING "OLDER BROTHER."

SOURCES: JEANETTE LAZAM, MANILATOWN HERITAGE CENTER, FREEDOM ARCHIVES

A LOT OF THE OLDER GUYS WHO LIVED HERE, THEY HAD FAMILIES BACK IN THE PHILIPPINES... THESE GUYS CAME IN 1928, '29.

THEY HAD EVERY INTENTION TO MAKE THEIR MONEY, GO BACK HOME.

A LOT OF THEM DIDN'T DO THAT. THEY STILL SENT MONEY BACK HOME.

BUT THEY NEVER SAW THEIR FAMILIES AGAIN.

THEY CAME HERE BECAUSE MANILATOWN WAS TEN BLOCKS LONG AT THE TIME, AND THERE WERE ALL THESE HOTELS.

BUT THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL BECAME THE FAVORITE.

KUMUSTA KA, PARE!

EVEN IF THEY WENT UP TO ALASKA FOR A SEASON, OR WENT ON THE MIGRATORY FARM ROUTE FROM THE COACHELLA VALLEY ALL THE WAY TO WASHINGTON STATE, THEY ALWAYS CAME BACK HERE.

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE FUN WE HAD THERE!

YOU'D GO DOWN TO TINO'S BARBERSHOP AND BOOM! A RONDALLA BAND!

OR YOU'D GO TO INESS AQUINO'S] MABUHAY GARDENS.

GOD! INCREDIBLE FOOD! ONE OF THE NICEST MEN.

THEN YOU HAD JOAQUIN LEGASPI, THE POET LAUREATE OF MANILATOWN.

HE LIVED AT THE ST. PAUL AND HE PAINTED. HE DREW. HE WROTE. AND HE SPOKE FIVE LANGUAGES.

I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL: IT HAD TO GET RENOVATED.

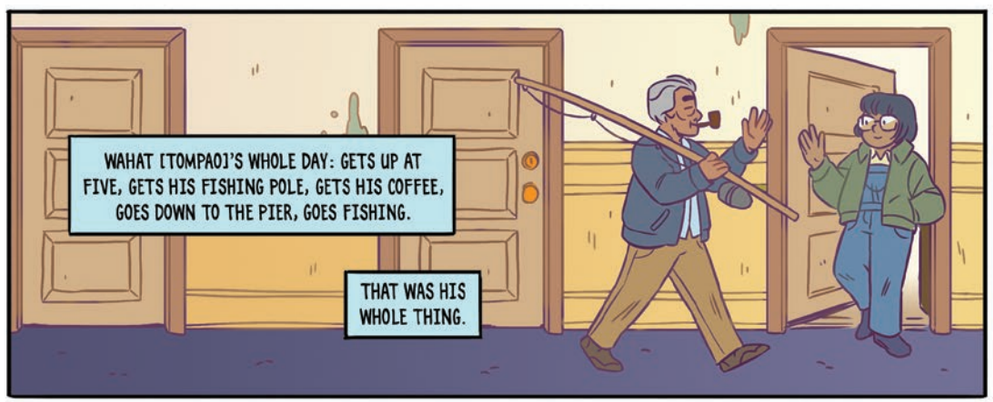
WHAT DIDN'T NEED TO GET RENOVATED WAS THE FEELING. THE FEELING ABOUT HOME, COMMUNITY, PEOPLE THAT YOU'D NEVER THINK YOU'D RUN INTO.

HOY, JEANETTE! KUMAIN KA NA!

THEY WOULD SHARE THEIR LIVES WITH YOU.

FOUR SEAS INVESTMENT CORPORATION ACQUIRED THE I-HOTEL IN 1973.
SHERIFF'S DEPART
NOTICE TO VACATE
ALTHOUGH THE COMPANY NEVER MADE ITS DEVELOPMENT PLANS KNOWN, IT CLEARLY INTENDED TO RAZE THE BUILDING AFTER EVICTING THE TENANTS.

THESE MEN, AND SOME WOMEN, NEVER EXPECTED TO GO THIS LENGTH IN TERMS OF DEFENDING THEIR COMMUNITY. NONE OF THEM.

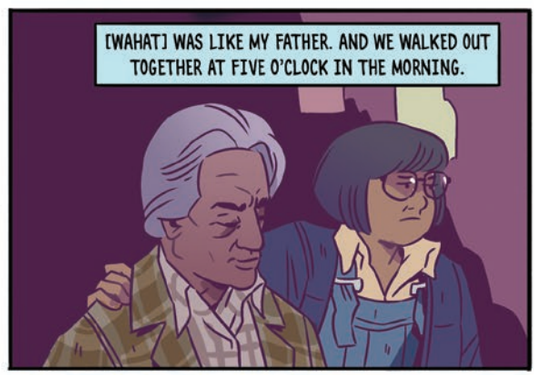

WAHAT [TOMPAO]'S WHOLE DAY: GETS UP AT FIVE, GETS HIS FISHING POLE, GETS HIS COFFEE, GOES DOWN TO THE PIER, GOES FISHING.
THAT WAS HIS WHOLE THING.

BY THE CLOSE OF THE EVICTION PROCESS, WAHAT WAS SCREAMING, "WE WON'T GO!"
INTERNATIONAL
STOP EVIC

HE TOOK LEADERSHIP OF THIS STRUGGLE AND IT WAS AMAZING.

A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TO DEFEND THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL. AT ONE POINT, AT ITS HEIGHT, I THINK 5,000 WERE OUTSIDE.
EVICTIONS
WE WON'T MOVE
FIGHT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
IT'S OUR HOME
WE WON'T MOVE
HOUSING IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT
EVICTIONS

EARLY IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 4, 1977, POLICE FORCED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE HUMAN BARRICADE AND PHYSICALLY REMOVED THE I-HOTEL'S RESIDENTS.


[WAHAT] WAS LIKE MY FATHER. AND WE WALKED OUT TOGETHER AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

YOU HEARD HIS WAILING ALL THE WAY DOWN KEARNY STREET.
I FAILED! I FAILED! I FAILED! I FAILED! STOP THIS EVICTION!

THE RESIDENTS WENT TO THIS HOTEL UP KEARNY STREET. THE CITY SAID THAT THEY WERE GOING TO PROVIDE HOUSING.
NEVER DID.

FOUR SEAS DEMOLISHED THE I-HOTEL IN 1979, BUT THE CITY PREVENTED THE COMPANY FROM DEVELOPING THE PROPERTY.

THE LOT REMAINED EMPTY FOR 25 YEARS.

IN 2005, THE NEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SENIOR HOUSING OPENED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE ORIGINAL I-HOTEL.

JEANETTE LAZAM MOVED INTO THE BUILDING IN 2021.

I-HOTEL

SHE WAS 72.

I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THE I-HOTEL. IT'S NOT THE SAME. I'M GLAD IT'S HERE. DON'T GET ME WRONG.

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ME LIVING IN MY MEMORIES AND NOT FEELING THE SAME I HAD WHEN I FIRST MOVED IN.

I HAD ALL THESE EMOTIONAL FEELINGS ABOUT MOVING BACK INTO THE HOTEL AND NOT HEARING, NOT SMELLING, NOT TASTING, NOT SEEING MY PEOPLE.

THERE'S, WHAT, FOUR FILIPINOS HERE?

WAHAT. MY OTHER FATHER, TEX LLAMERA. CLAUDIO DOMINGO. LUISA DE LA CRUZ. NITA RADER. I WISH THEY COULD ALL BE HERE, BUT THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

IT'S HARD FOR ME. PEOPLE THOUGHT, "OH, SHE'S COMING BACK. SHE'S COMING BACK HOME." IT'S NOT HOME ANYMORE.

THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, IT WAS THE LARGEST HOUSING STRUGGLE TO EVER MAKE NATIONAL ATTENTION. I MEAN, WALTER CRONKITE COVERED THIS STORY.

BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE THE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL OUT OF CONTEXT.

BECAUSE THE WHOLE THING ABOUT THE HOTEL IS THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE COMING TO THIS COUNTRY...

...DOING WHAT WE HAD TO DO, GETTING TREATED THE WAY WE GOT TREATED...

...AND THEN COMING AT THE VERY END OF THEIR LIVES (NOT MY LIFE, BUT THEIR LIVES) ONLY TO GET EVICTED.

AND I THINK IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE LAY CLAIM TO EVERY SINGLE ASPECT OF WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS AND MOTHERS DID FOR THIS COUNTRY AND ARE DOING NOW.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO TELL ME TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

I WAS BORN HERE. I WAS RAISED HERE.

AND I'LL TAKE YOU OUT.

I DON'T TAKE THAT SHIT FROM ANYBODY.

GEt the NiB IN YOUR iNBOX

Sign up for *The Nib*'s daily newsletter and start your day with free comics instead of a Zoom meeting. Every weekday morning we send out brand-new work from some of the best political and nonfiction cartoonists in the world, satirizing or digging deeper into all the headlines you were mad about the day before. You could not possibly begin your day in a better way while staring at your phone.

POLITICAL COMICS

Read new work from established satirists like Tom Tomorrow, Jen Sorensen, and Mattie Lubchansky, and up-and-comers like Charis JB and Niccolo Pizarro.

NONFICTION AND MEMOIR

Weekly long-form comics, like on-the-ground reportage from BLM protests, unexplored areas of history, and Breena Nuñez's Ignatz-nominated comic "I Exist" on their nonbinary identity.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

From a look at the cult in South Korea whose denialism helped spread COVID-19 to illustrated reporting from Russia's recent election, we're publishing comics you won't find anywhere else online.

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the INKWELL

Each issue of *The Nib* magazine is built around a theme we explore through nonfiction, memoir, and satire—all in comics form, the best medium. We are a publication entirely supported by our readers. By becoming a member of The Inkwell, you will receive three issues a year of our award-winning magazine and help support all the work we do across web and print.

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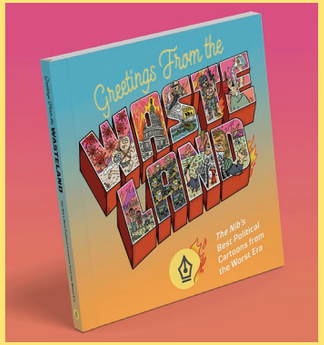
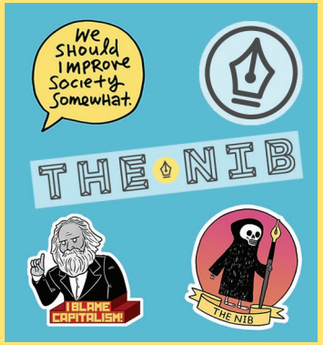


BOOKSTORE DISCOUNTS

PHONE BACKGROUNDS



DID SOMEONE SAY STICKERS?

THE NIB

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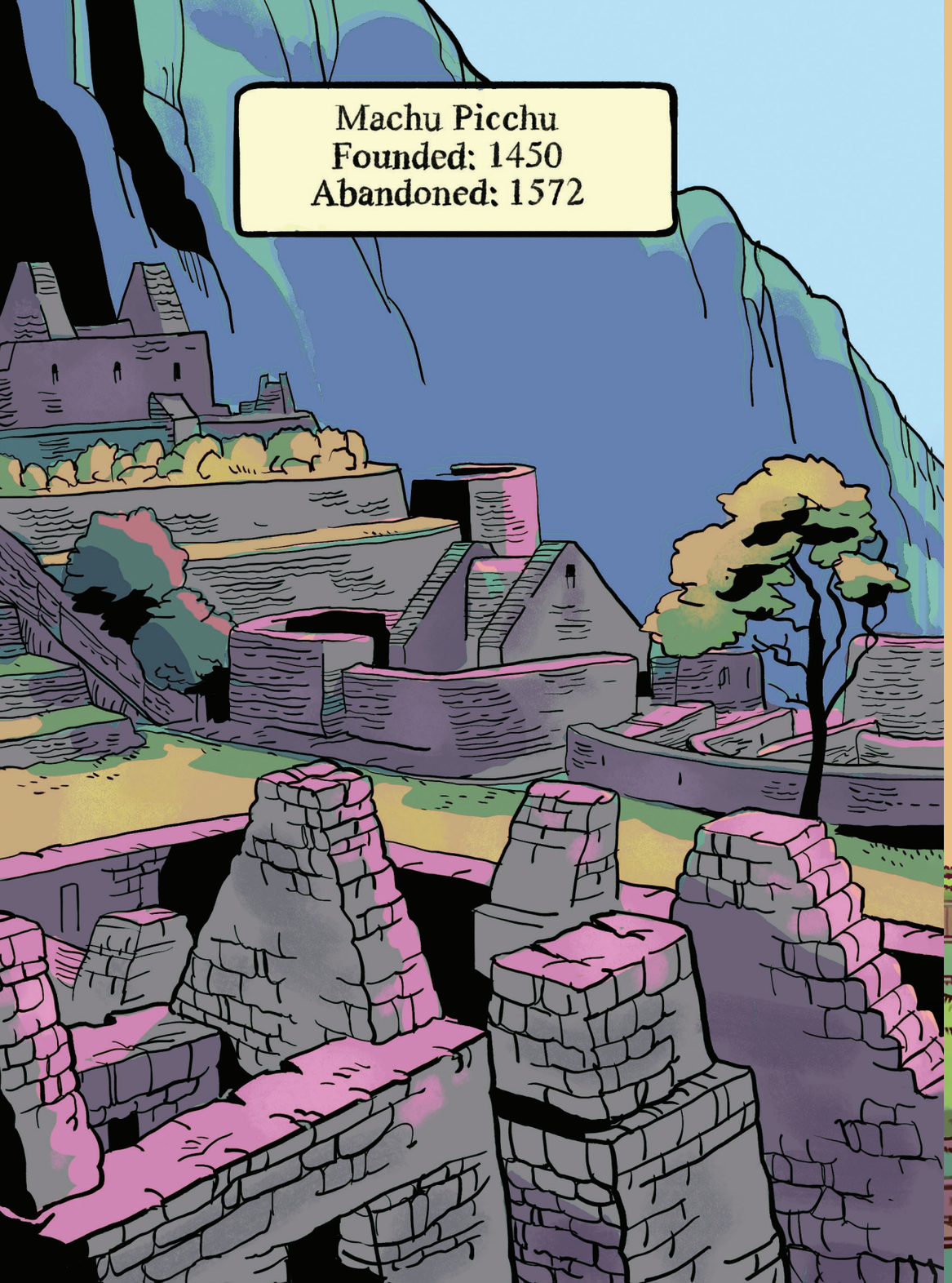
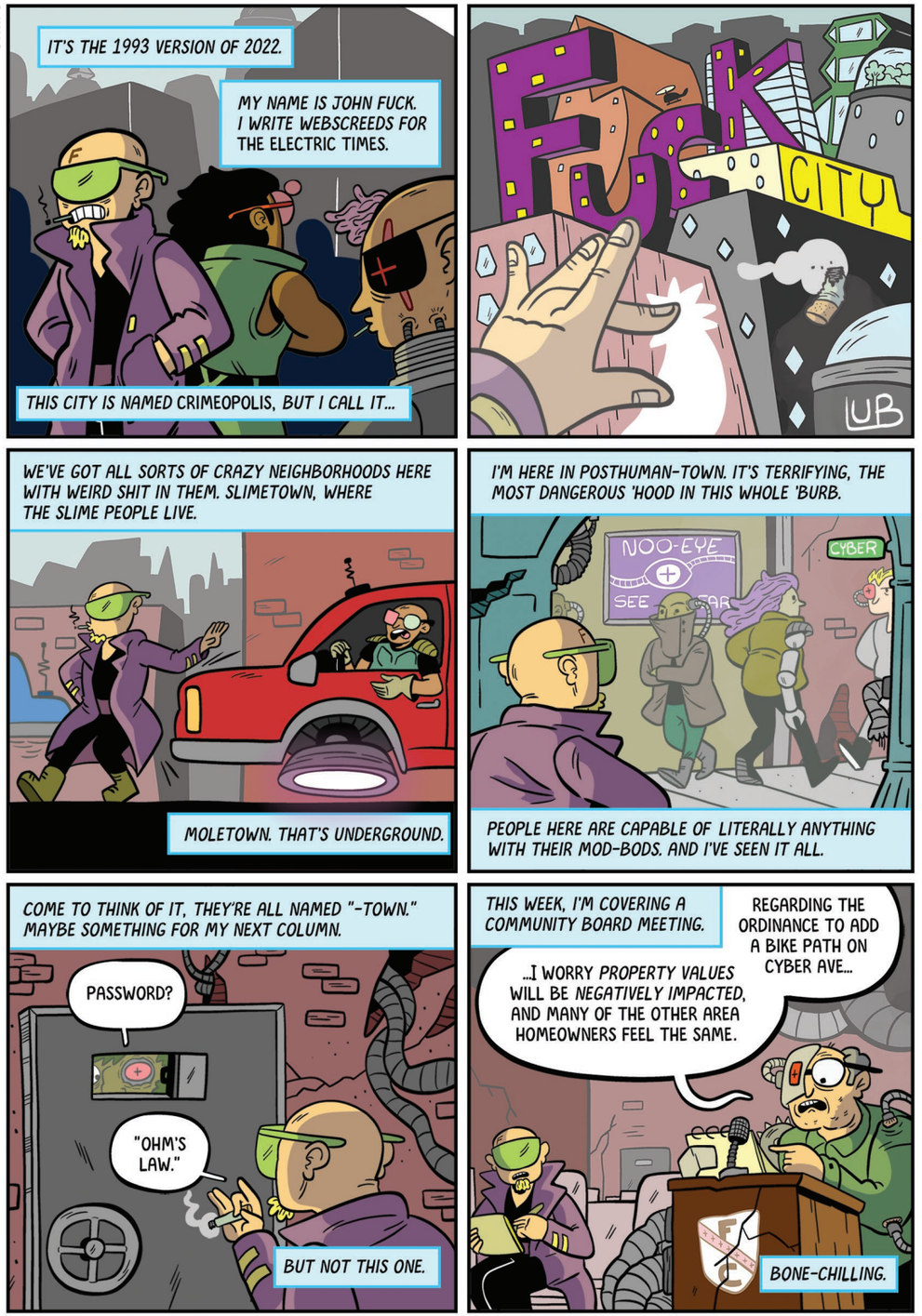


STRIPS

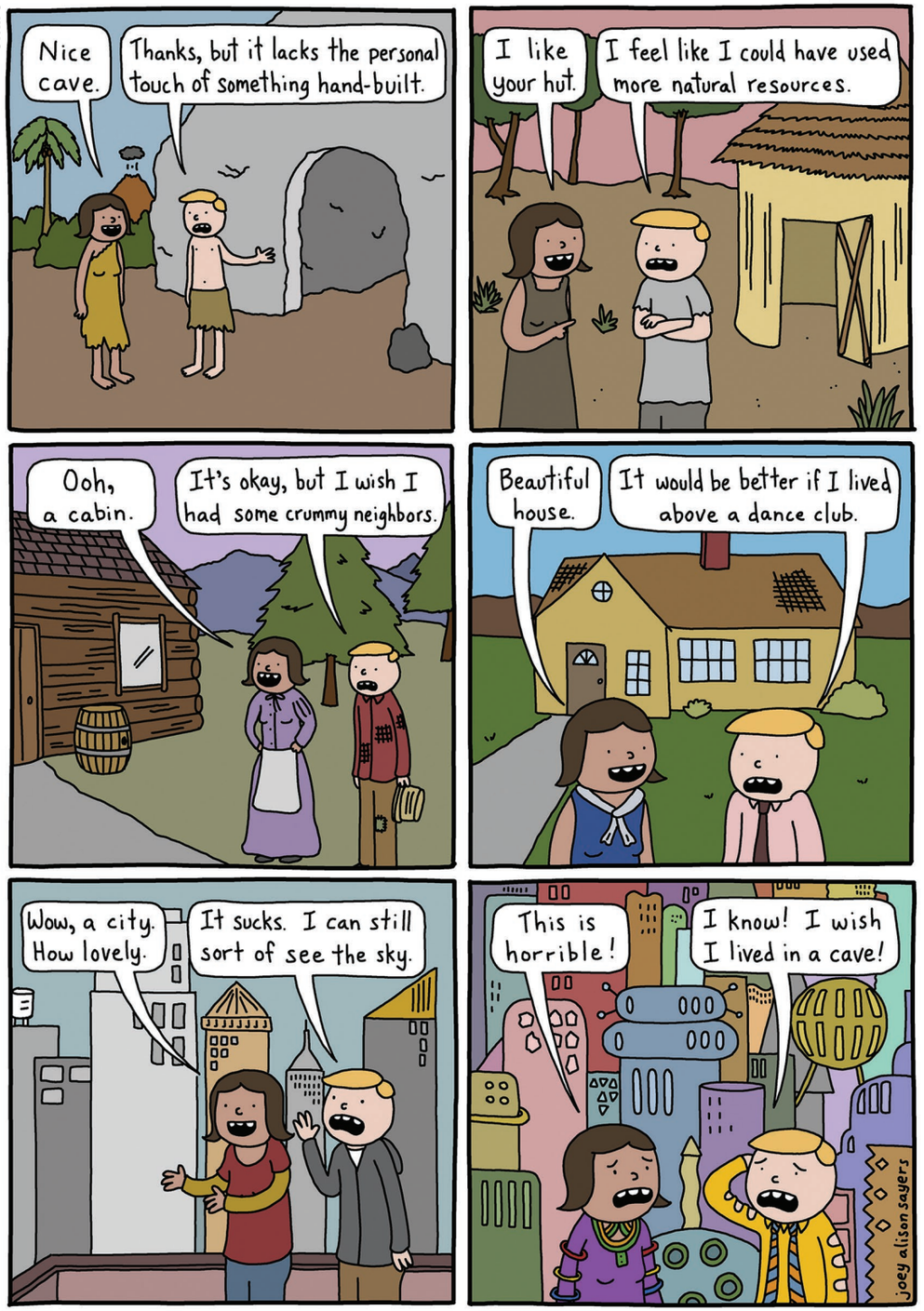
Mattie Lubchansky



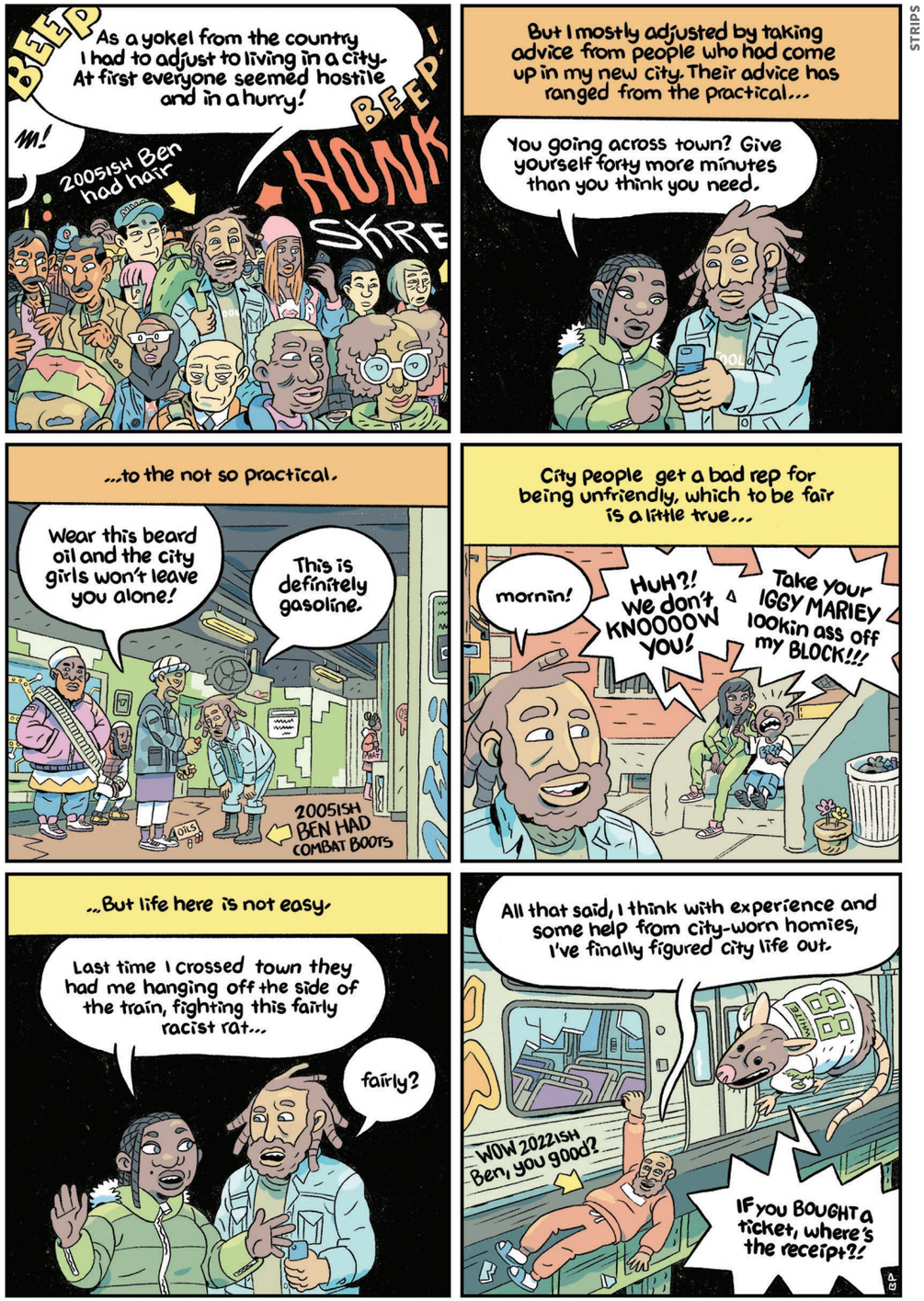
Gemma Correll

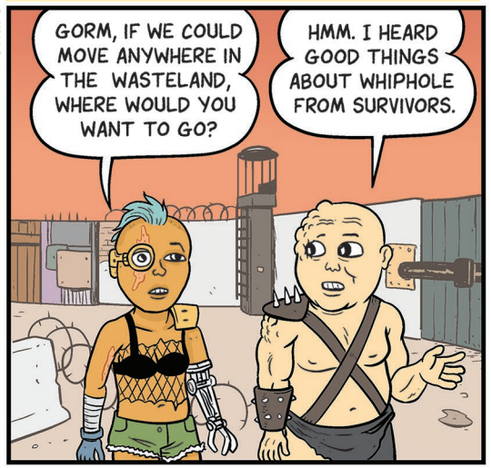
LESS HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF LONDON

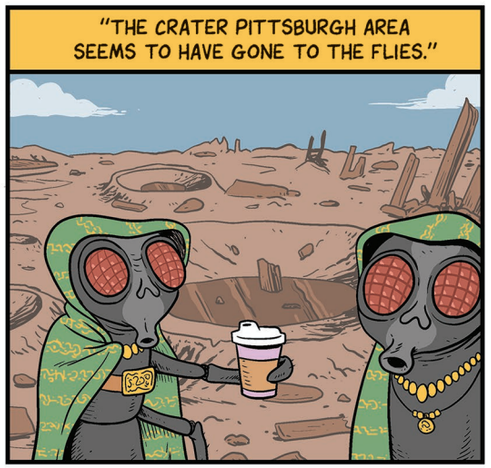
Joey Alison Sayers

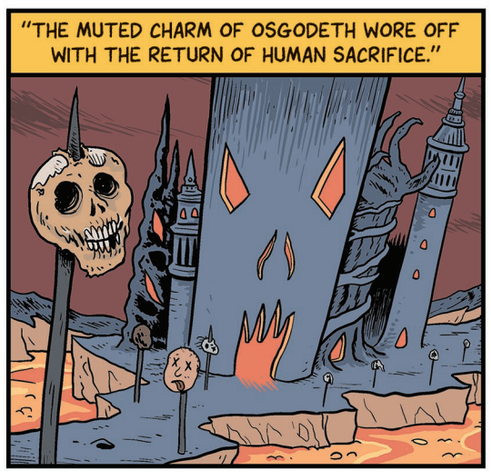


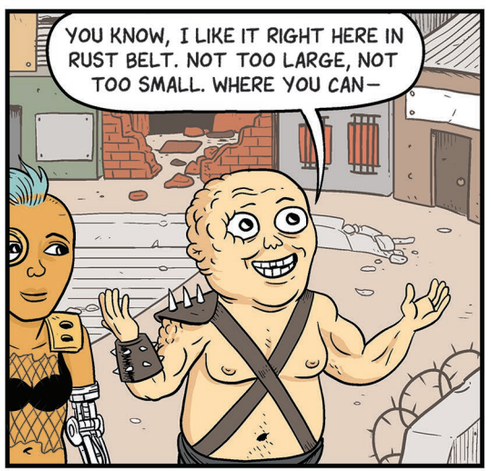
Ben Passmore

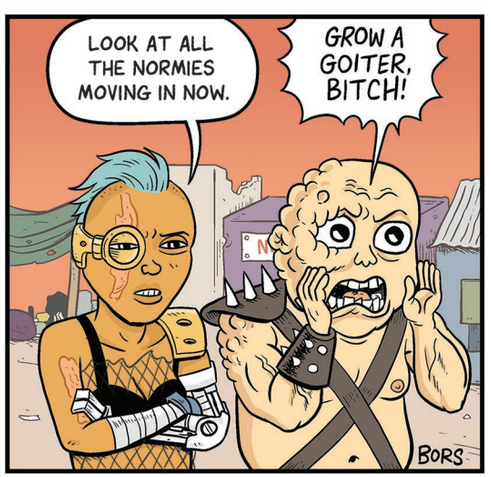




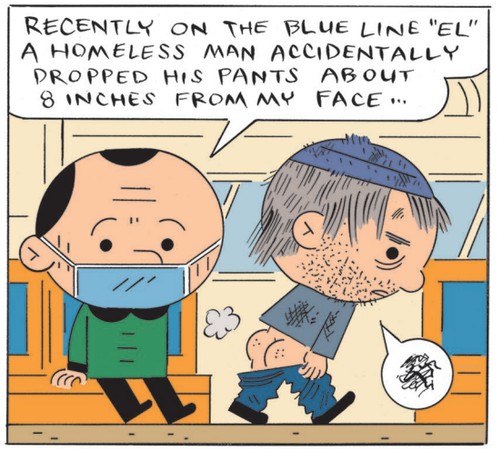


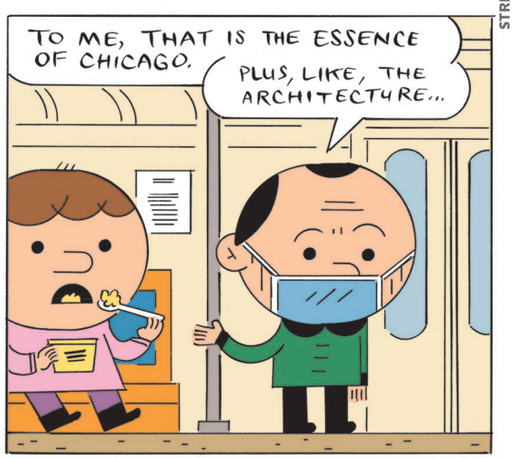


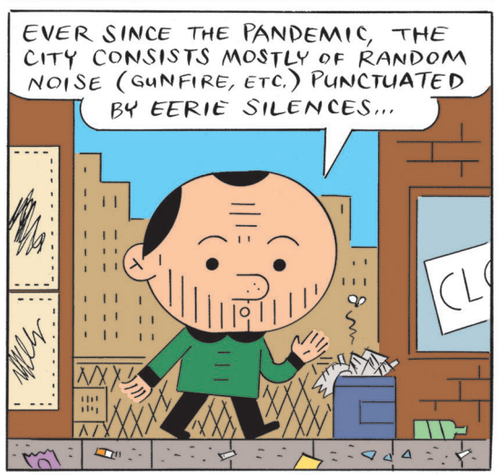


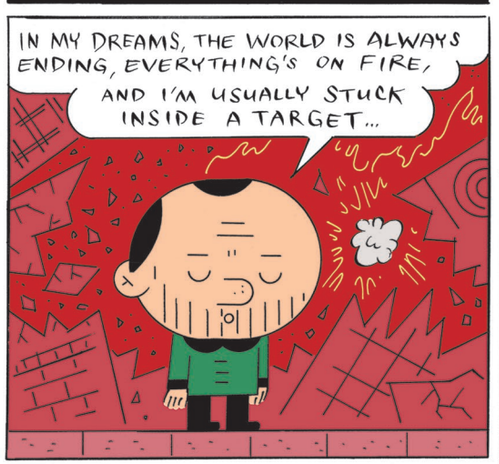


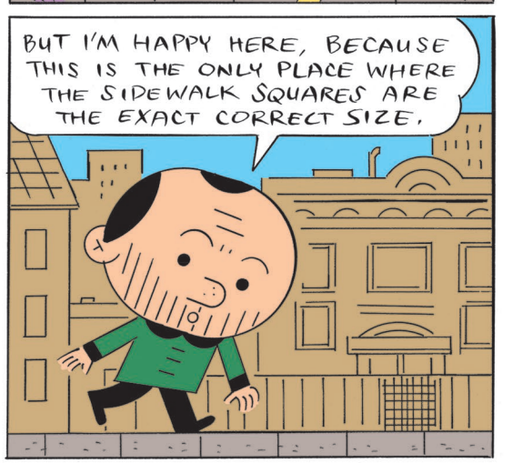
SWEET HOME CHICAGO



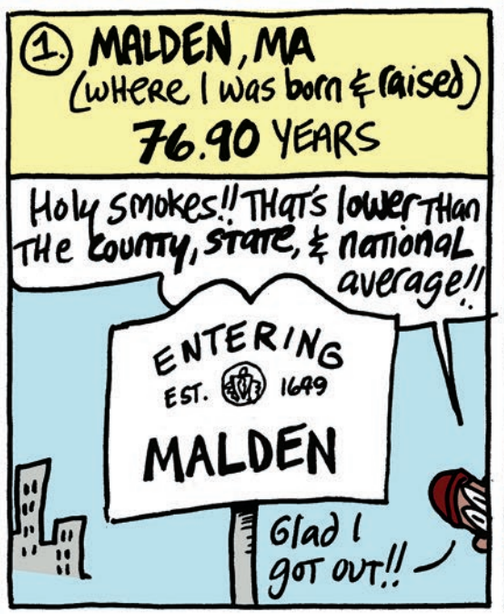


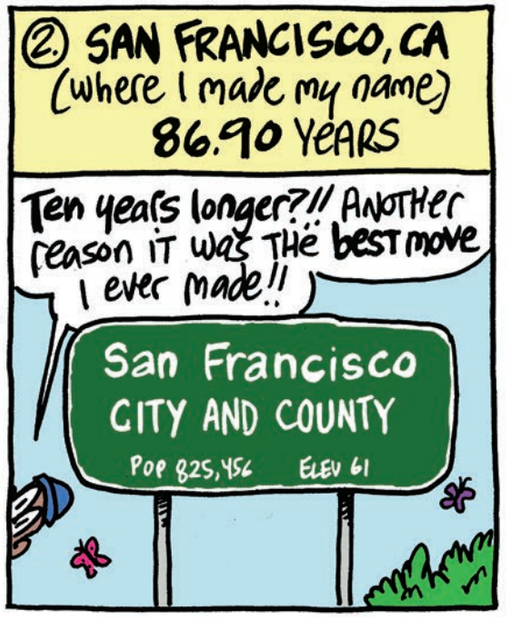




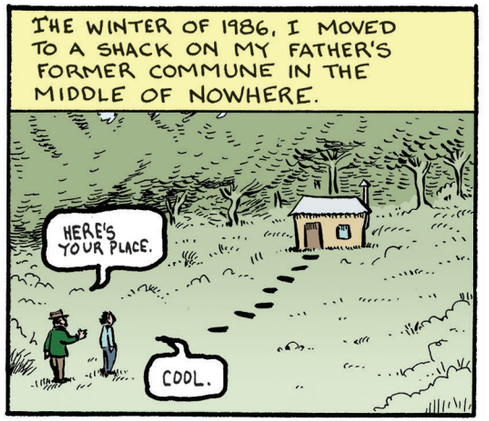


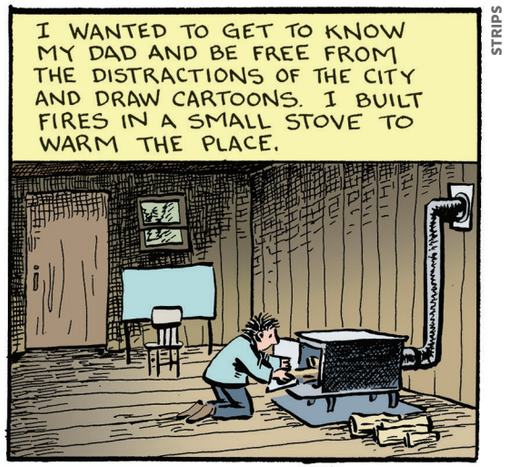
THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION HAS A WEBSITE WHERE YOU ENTER YOUR ADDRESS, & IT'LL GIVE YOU THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT AREA... (www.rwjf.org)

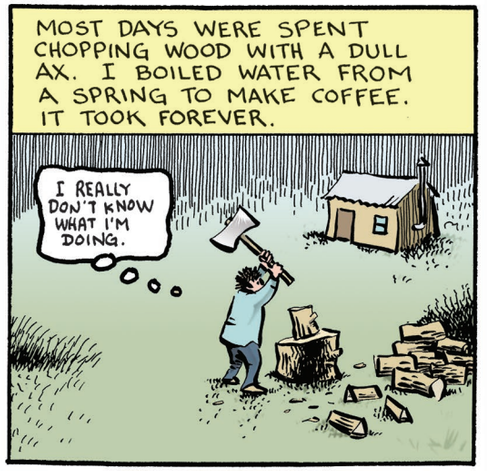


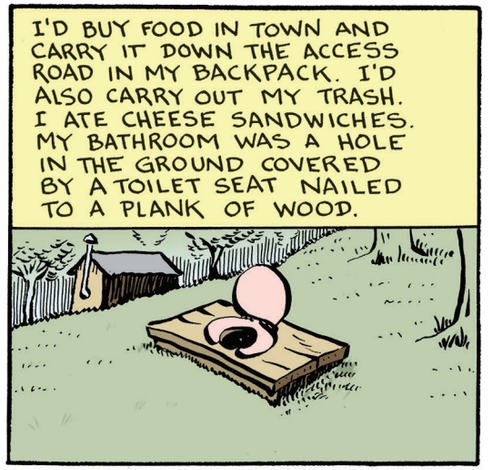


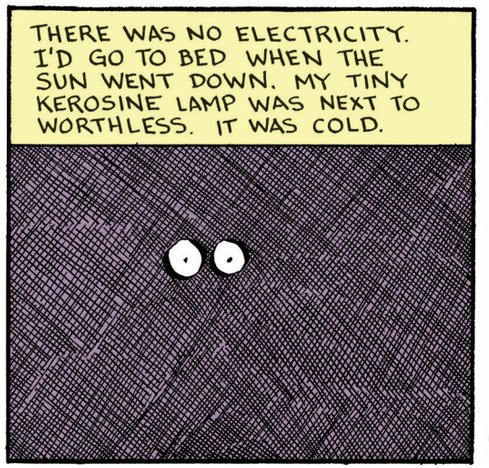
COUNTRY LIFE

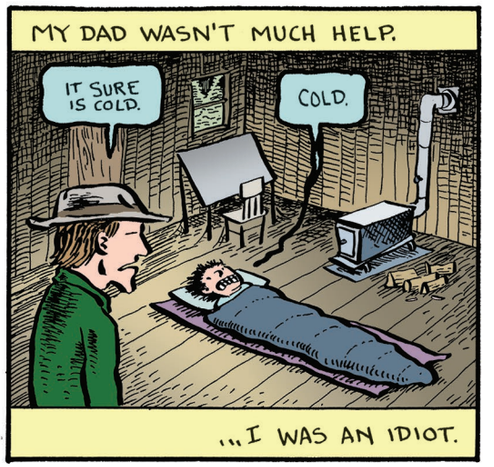












Whit Taylor

2020 IGNATZ AWARD WINNER OUTSTANDING ANTHOLOGY

A 250-page anthology of queer comics from *The Nib* showcasing our best history, memoir, and satire from LGBTQ artists.

Featuring:
Hazel Newlevant, Mattie Lubchansky, Maia Kobabe, Shing Yin Khor, Joey Alison Sayers, Breena Nuñez, Kazimir Lee

And many, many more!

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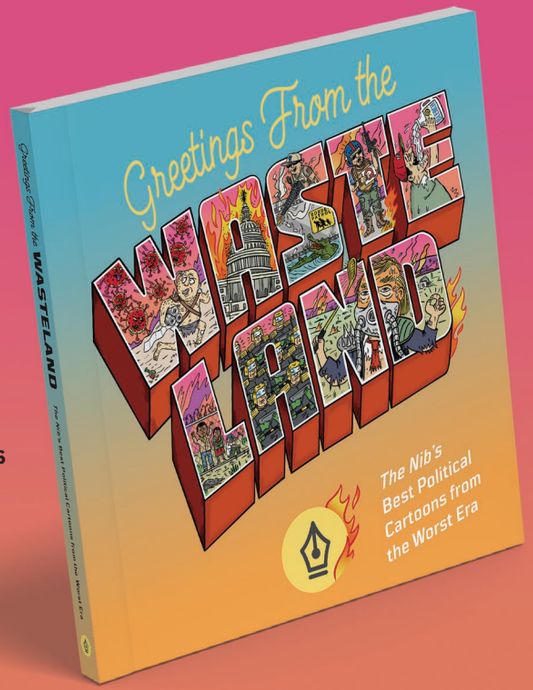
"Excellent Comics For a DeBased Age."
–Joyce Carol Oates

From our descent into the Trump era to the 2020 pandemic, *Greetings From the Wasteland* collects 200 pages of our best political cartoons and satire on our dystopian hellscape. Featuring interviews and work from more than two dozen *Nib* cartoonists!



Pompeii
Founded: 7th century AD
Abandoned: 79 AD

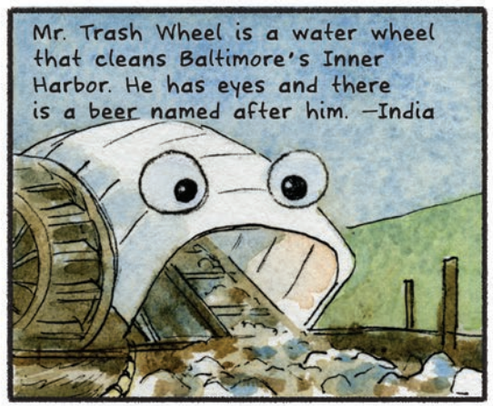
Let's Get Lost

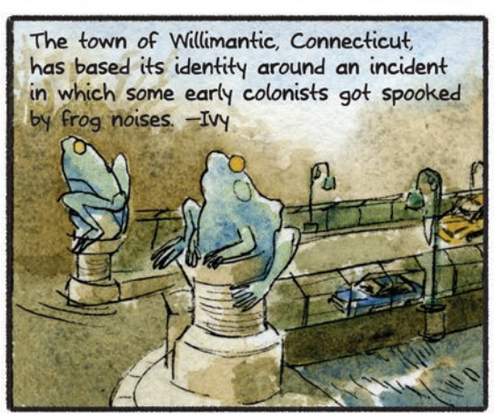
If getting lost in words and pictures is your idea of a good time, you've stumbled onto the right place. Visit our online bookstore for back issues of *The Nib* magazine and towers of nonfiction comics and graphic novels curated by our editors at ***thenib.com*/books.**

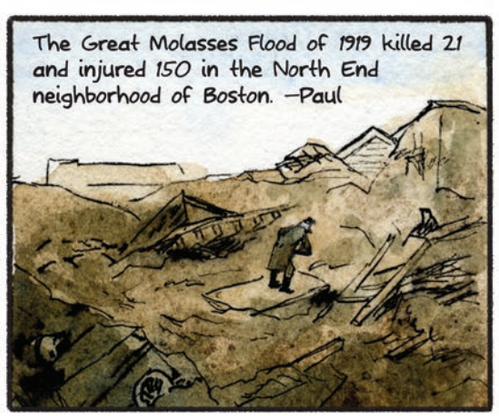
Illustration by Maria Stoian

Letters to the Editor

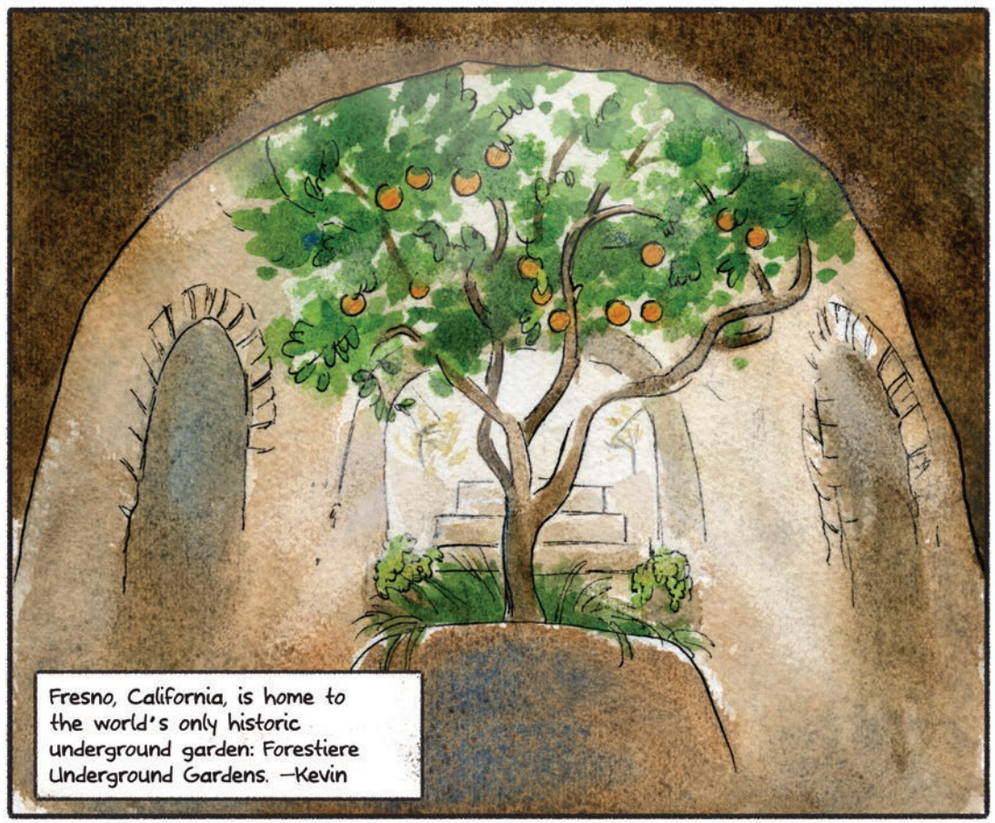
Tell Us One Weird Thing About Your Hometown.

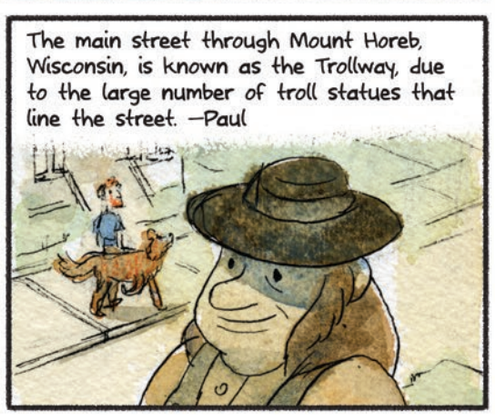






Wish you were here! We asked The Nib*'s Inkwell members to tell us the one weird thing about their hometown that a visitor truly cannot miss. Lovingly rendered by Jackie Roche.*





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Sonaksha Iyengar is a fat, queer, chronically ill, disabled illustrator, graphic recorder, and book designer. They use art to participate in building social justice movements and work with organizations defending human rights and the environment. Sonaksha is currently dreaming and drawing about disability justice, care, fat liberation, and queerness while living in Bangalore, where they are often found in the aisles of bookstores or eating paint.

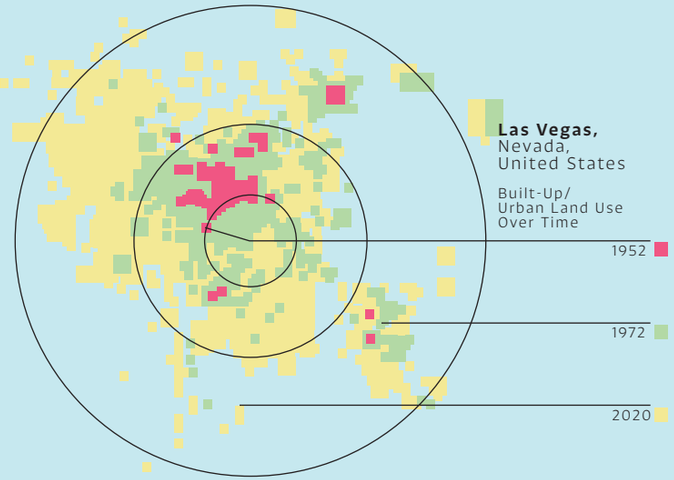
Jin Hien Lau is an illustrator and animator and all-round storyteller based in Sydney and sometimes Malaysia. He often thinks about the money he has saved from giving up smoking and uses that as an excuse to spend money on stupid things.

Zhenya Oliinyk is an illustrator and a cartoonist born and based in Kyiv. She's also a former journalist and an expert in cultural studies. She loves Kyiv but doesn't like it very much. However, after fleeing from Russian aggression to Lviv, she realized she likes Kyiv more than she thought and came back. Zhenya really wants to go to Kharkiv once again and hopes there will be something left when the war ends.

Erlend Hjortland Sandøy is a Bergen-born cartoonist, illustrator, and animator. He is currently settled in Copenhagen, Denmark, a city where one can see such sights as the Little Mermaid statue, structural racism, and the world's oldest operating amusement park!

Andi Zeisler is a writer, editor, and occasional comics maker who lives in Portland, OR, and wants you to know that the *Portlandia* skit about drivers stuck at a four-way stop sign is 100 percent accurate.

Tokomaru
Founded: 1886
Abandoned: Beginning in
1952


Las Vegas,
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Built-Up/
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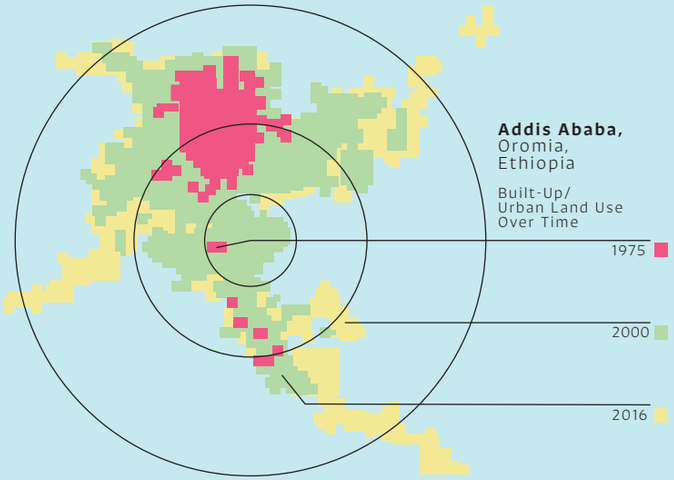
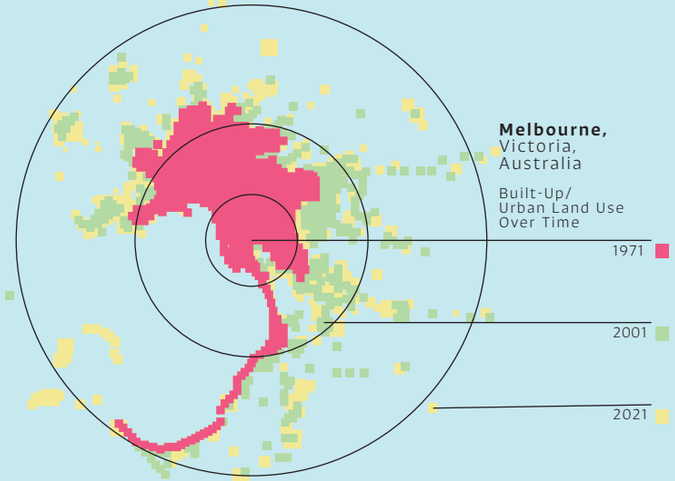
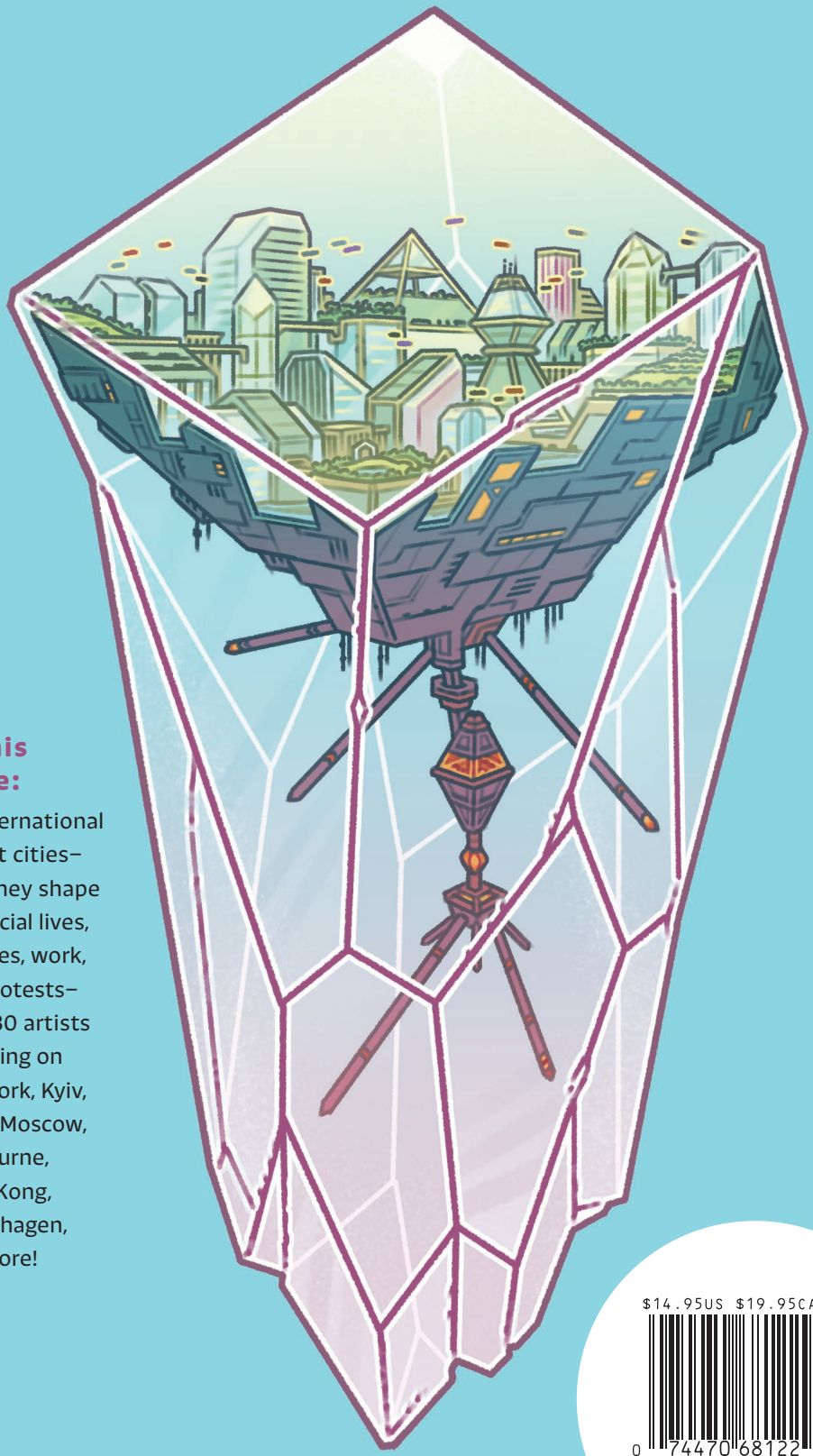
Over Time
1952
1972
2020


Addis Ababa,
Oromia,
Ethiopia
Built-Up/
Urban Land Use
Over Time
1975
2000
2016


Melbourne,
Victoria,
Australia
Built-Up/
Urban Land Use
Over Time
1971
2001
2021



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